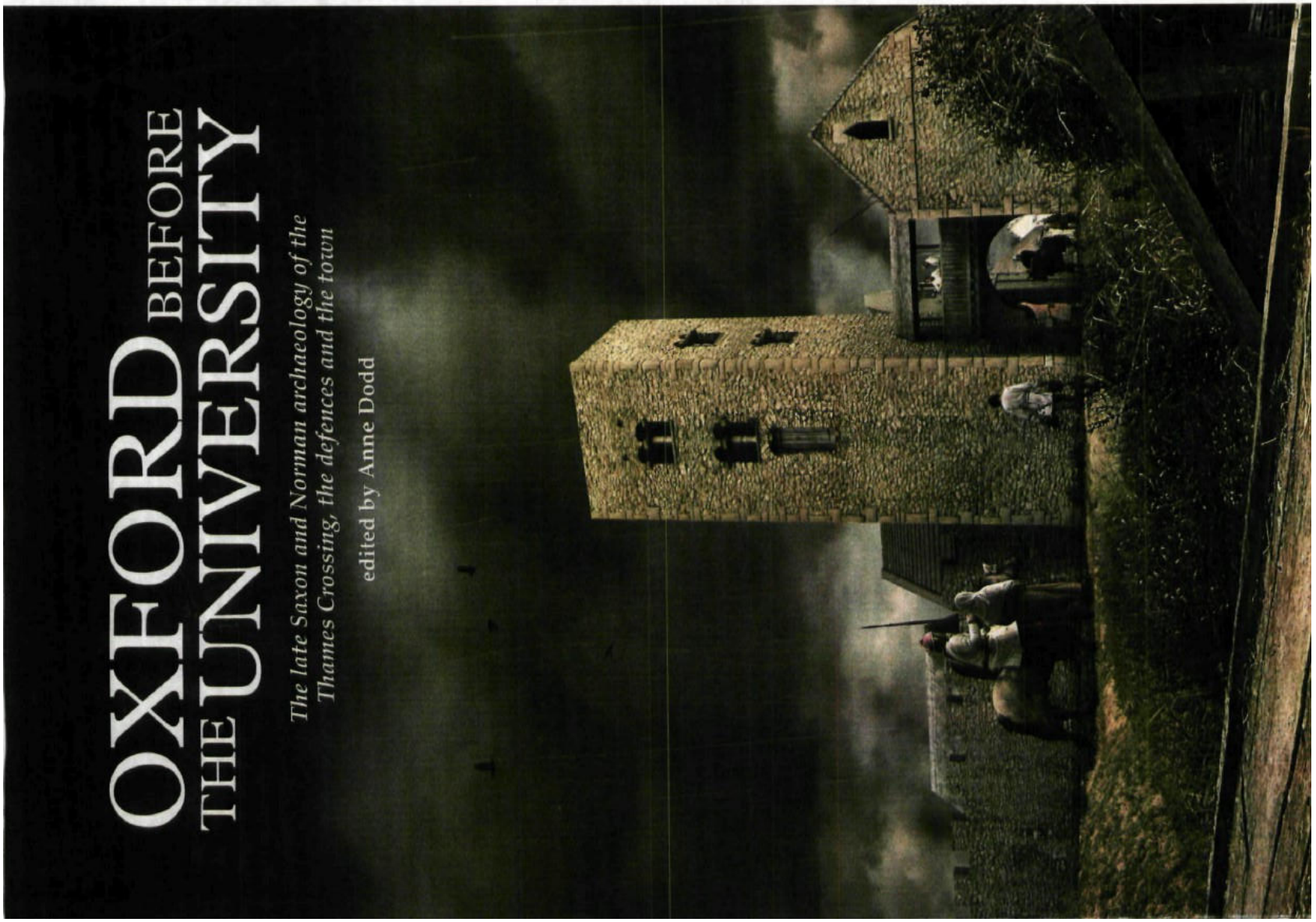
# Gazetteer of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Archaeological Sites in the City Centre


OXFORD BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY
The late Saxon and Norman archaeology of the Thames Crossing, the defences and the town
edited by Anne Dodd

# Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Archaeological Sites in the City Centre

*Compiled by Anne Dodd*

This gazetteer provides a summary account of the excavations and observations referred to in the main body of this volume. It is an extensive review, but not a complete account, of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeology of the city, and sites are not included, or not covered in detail, if they are not directly relevant to this volume. The archaeology of earlier periods is summarised at the beginning of Chapter 2, with bibliographic references, and is not included here. The sites described below are in alphabetical order of street address or college name and their position is shown on the accompanying map, Fig. A1.1; some additional sites have been added to the end of the gazetteer since it was substantially completed in 1996. The date of the observation is given with the site name, and numerous observations have been made at certain of the colleges. Grid references have been given as accurately as possible, but the precise location of some observations is not known; other sites comprised numerous discrete trenches over a large area, and in these cases only a grid square reference is given. The name of the archaeologist and organisation responsible for the work is noted, and the location and museum accession number of the archive are given if known. Archives in the keeping of OAU at the time of writing will be deposited with the Ashmolean Museum (for university property) or the Oxfordshire County Museum Service (all other sites). Most sites are cross-referenced to their Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record Primary Record Number (SMR PRN). Report references are to the most complete published account, which will in some cases be the gazetteer entry only, or a full report in the main body of this volume. Full details of works cited will be found in the bibliography. Abbreviations are listed at the beginning of the bibliography.

**1 Albion Place 1973**
SP 51225 05890
H Woods for OAEC
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6262

A machine trench was excavated northwards from the frontage of Albion Place, immediately N of the Victorian culvert of the Trill Mill Stream. It was hoped that the trench would locate the N bank of the stream. However, the trench was still 15 m short of the cut seen on the Littlegate site (Gaz No. 61), and the results of the excavations at 89–91 St Aldate's (Gaz No. 96; this volume, Chapter 3) suggest that, with hindsight, the Albion Place trench was not long enough for its intended purpose. The trench was taken down to blue-black silt. A large quantity of dumped stone was noted at the N end, suggested as early land reclamation, which in this context may have been material from the demolition of the friaries in the second half of the 16th century. Excavation to 2.7 m failed to find a firm base however, nor indeed did augering to 3.6 m (about 53.05 m OD).

**2 Blackfriars 1961–83**
(Thames St/ former Luther Terrace/Speedwell St/ Albert St)
Grid square SP 512 058; various locations
J W Banks 1961; Fr F Radcliffe OP 1966; D Keene 1967; N Jackson 1969, G Lambrick 1972 for OAEC; H Woods 1973–4 and 1974–5, G Lambrick, B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 75.42; Oxon SMR PRN 6002

Excavations and salvage observations over 22 years recovered the plan of the main conventual buildings and evidence for the construction and architecture of the church; evidence for subsidiary buildings S of the main claustral area was also found. A small number of burials were excavated from the priory graveyard. An attempt to locate wharfage on the friars' S river frontage was inconclusive. A study of borehole data and samples was undertaken, but the alluvium and channel deposits could not be dated.

Report: (excavations 1961–75) Lambrick and Woods 1976; (excavations 1976–83) Lambrick 1985

**3 Brasenose Lane 1961**
SP 51555 06361
D Sturdy
Oxon SMR PRN 6310 (Med.)

A drainage trench at the E end of Brasenose Lane revealed layers containing late Saxon material overlain by a medieval road. There was no evidence for a road in the late Saxon period.

Report: Sturdy 1961/2a; see also this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces'

**4 Brasenose Lane 1991**
SP 51510 06354
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6310

Observation of sewerage work revealed original topsoil heavily iron-panned and burnt; a cobbled surface was revealed, but no evidence of primary metalling from the late Saxon period.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

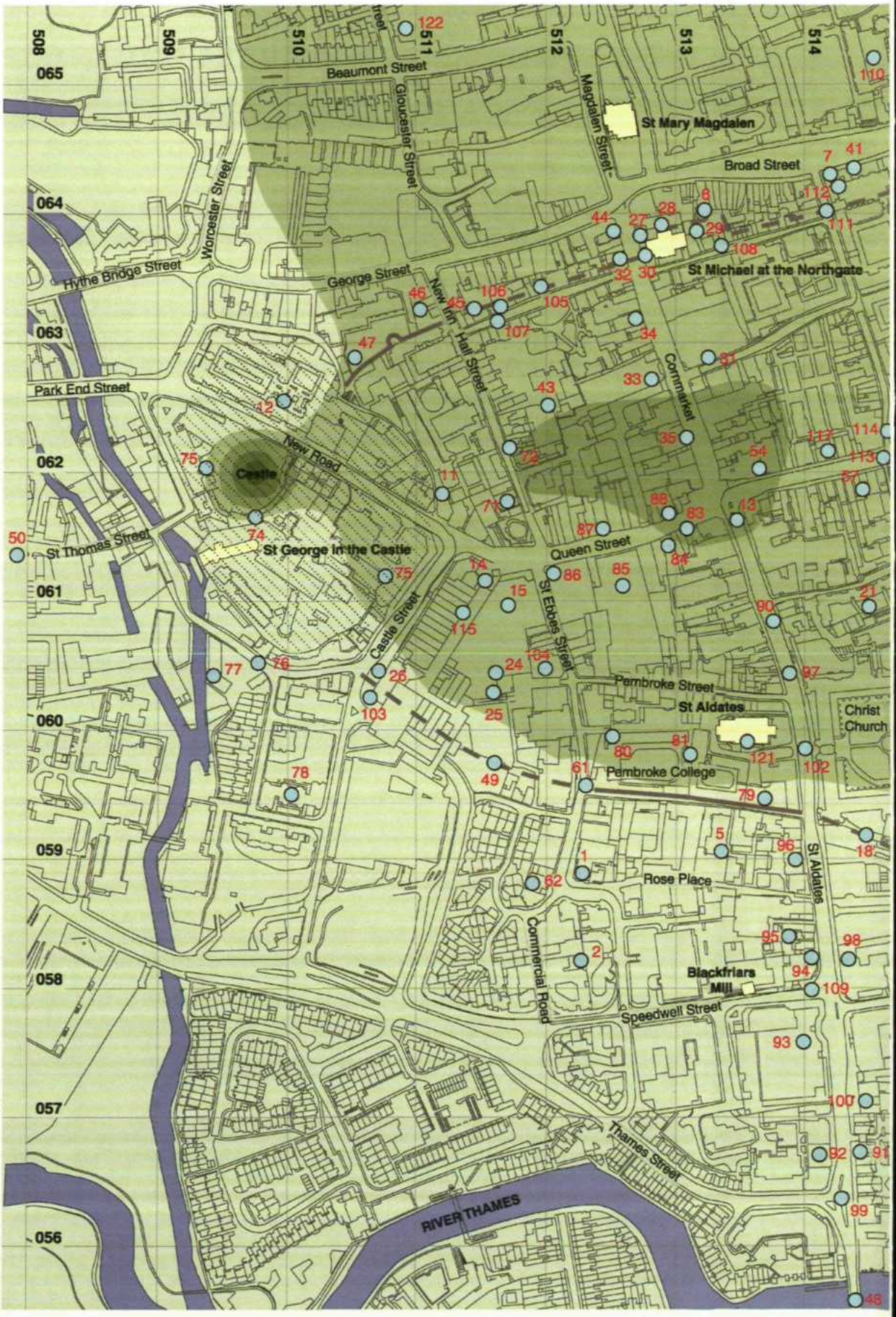
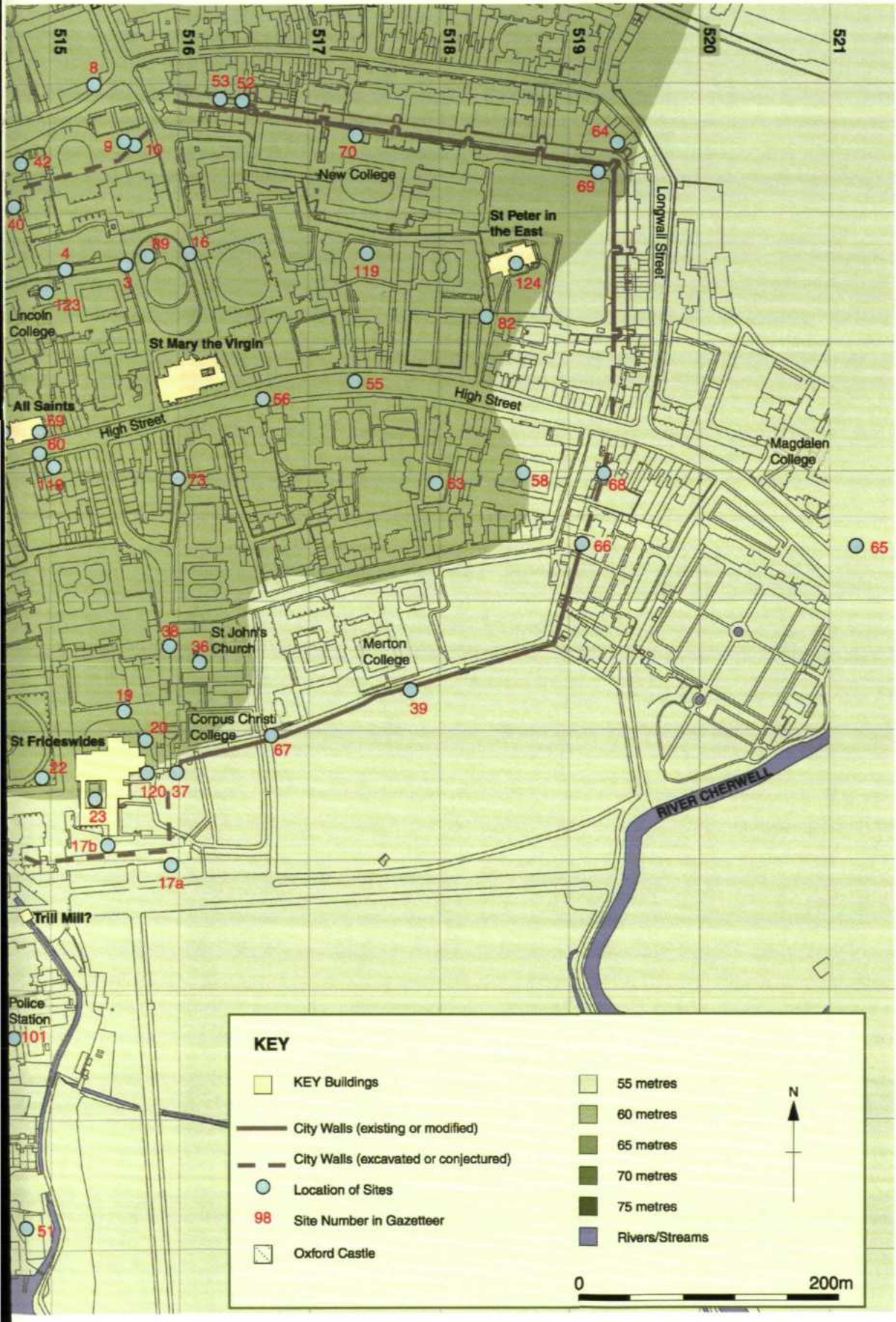



*Figure A1.1 Gazetteer map.*


515
516
517
518
519
520
521
New College
St Peter in the East
Longwall Street
Lincoln College
St Mary the Virgin
All Saints
High Street
High Street
Magdalen College
St John's Church
Merton College
Corpus Christi College
St Frideswides
RIVER CHERWELL
Trill Mill?
Police Station
KEY
KEY Buildings
City Walls (existing or modified)
City Walls (excavated or conjectured)
Location of Sites
98 Site Number in Gazetteer
Oxford Castle
55 metres
60 metres
65 metres
70 metres
75 metres
Rivers/Streams
N
0
200m

**5 Brewer St Christ Church Cathedral School 1891–2**
SP 51335 05905
H Hurst
Archive Bodl MS Top Oxon; Oxon SMR PRN 6794

'At one point, at the south-east angle of the Choir School of Christ Church, a brook was lately discovered twelve or thirteen feet deep, still flowing among the undecayed roots of trees, apparently alder trees, thus proving that great changes in the levels of that district had taken place within the space of a few centuries. No trace of a fosse under the City Wall, where it runs along Brewer's Street, has been noted by any writer...[the question arises] whether the Trill Mill Stream may not at one time have served as the fosse on that side of the town, the intervening ground being of such a marshy character that no other fosse was wanted.'

Report: Hurst 1899, 33

**6 Broad St 6 (Oxford Story/Bakers Warehouse) 1986**
SP 51325 06399
B Durham/M Collard for OAU
Archive OxMus 1988.68; Oxon SMR PRN 3442

Fieldwork involving trenching, building survey and a watching brief was carried out in advance of the redevelopment of the site as a historical theme display. The work confirmed the medieval origins of the standing Bastion 4. Similar walling was found in the basement to the S and may be the town wall returning S from the tower, linking it to the original line of the town wall.

Report: This volume Chapter 4

This bastion, which legend associates with Archbishop Cranmer and Bishops Ridley and Latimer, had previously been noted by Herbert Hurst in 1870, in a discussion of the town ditch in Broad Street. Hurst commented that 'one foundation near the bishop's Bastion had to be carried down twenty two feet deep, partly through pond mud, before the gravel was reached; and this was where the surface ground lies quite five feet lower than the road'. (Hurst 1899, 125).

**7 Broad St 26 1889**
SP 51420 06430
H Hurst
Archive Bodl MS Top Oxon c.312 p 34, 37; c. 313, p 343; AM OAHS library; Oxon SMR PRN 6242

During demolition of a house on the corner of Broad St and Turl St, Hurst recorded preserved organic finds in the fill of the town ditch at a depth of 14 ft below the SE corner of the house (about 40 ft N of the town wall), extending northwards for 21 ft beyond the kerb into Broad St.

Report: Hurst 1899, 125

**8 Broad St 35–47 Bodleian Library extension 1937**
Grid square SP 515 065; various locations
R L S Bruce-Mitford, J Daniell, S Gardner, W A Pantin
Archive AM 1968 217–387, 687–735; Oxon SMR PRN 6225

A group of houses dating from the 17th century and later were surveyed and recorded by Pantin prior to their demolition for the construction of the Bodleian Library extension. Subsequently, a watching brief was maintained on the site which covered an area of more than an acre and was excavated to a depth of 25 ft (7.6 m). The archaeological work concentrated on the recording of the numerous medieval and post-medieval pits and wells on the site, and on the recovery and analysis of a large assemblage of finds, which included much pottery and glass from the 13th and 14th centuries, and from the post-medieval period.

Report: Pantin 1937; Bruce-Mitford 1939

**9 Broad Street Clarendon Quadrangle 1899**
SP 51540 06440
H Hurst for OAHS
Archive: Bodl MS Top. Oxon. c.189 p 190; AM OAHS library

An excavation was undertaken on the N line of the City Wall, just N of the Bodleian Library. The work uncovered the walls of Bastion 8 and the diagonal line of the wall towards Smith Gate to the NE; an earlier wall was also found, which turned southwards from the E side of the bastion and may represent the original E defences of the primary *burh*. This wall had a ragged finish on its rear side, as if it had been built up against the face of an earth bank.

Report: *Oxford Times* 18 Nov 1899, 3rd edn, p 10; Penny and Merry 1899; this volume Chapter 4, The Clarendon Quadrangle excavations

**10 Broad Street Clarendon Quadrangle 1938**
SP 51540 06440
J Daniell
Archive OAHS collections, AM; Oxon SMR PRN 3553

Further observations were undertaken in the Clarendon Quadrangle during the building of a tunnel linking the Old and New Bodleian Libraries and the remains of Bastion 8, seen in 1899, were again uncovered. In addition, it was noted that the line of the town wall was clear, but that it had been extensively robbed. A section was recorded across the town ditch; it was observed to be about 20 yards (18.3 m) in breadth, sloping down quite steeply from the ramp on its S side. Evidence from the fills suggested that the ditch had been kept moderately clear of rubbish until perhaps the early 16th century, when rubbish dumping and reclamation seemed to have begun.

Report: Daniell 1939

**11 Bulwarks Lane 4 1980**
SP 51118 06178
I Williams for OUAS
Archive OxMus 86.126; Oxon SMR PRN 6504

A trial trench excavated in the cellar failed to locate the W rampart of the *burh*, which earlier work at No. 40 George St (Gaz No. 47) had suggested might lie on this alignment. An area of apparent turf-stripping could have been associated with a rampart line further to the W. Two sherds of 9th- to 10th-century pottery were recovered from a broad post-in-trench feature. Further evidence suggested that the area had been occupied during the 11th and 12th centuries.

Report: Durham *et al.* 1983, 30, fig. 6

**12 Canal Wharf (Nuffield College) 1948**
SP 50995 06256 (various locations)
E M Jope for Ashmolean Museum, with OUAS .
Archive AM, E M Jope

A series of excavations around the Canal Wharf before and during the construction of Nuffield College located the line of the castle ditch, and the end of the town ditch and recovered evidence for pits and areas of occupation. The area excavated lay right across the line of the town wall at the E [*sic*] end of the walled area (on which Nuffield College now stands). A pit contained pottery dating to the 12th century.

Report: noted in *Oxoniensia* **13** (1948), 70 and 72

**13 Carfax Sotham's Cellars 1894**
SP 51340 06170 (estimated)
H Hurst
Archive Bodl MS Top Oxon b.81 f.46 (colour); c. 312 pp 220–1; Oxon SMR PRN 6126

'Mr Hurst also reports that at a depth of 11 ft 7 in below the present surface of St Aldate's Street, and at a spot about 14 ft from the crossing at Carfax there has been exposed the earliest road yet noticed in Oxford...The section that has been cut through shows, above the well-known Oxford gravel, a depth of 2 3/4 ft of which is visible, some 5 to 8 in of the usual reddish earth with indications of vegetable soil; above this is the paved way, over which is made ground 11 ft 7 in in depth. The road itself is formed of stones laid flat, only a few of which are as much as 8 in long; many are much rounded on the surface, and nowhere is there a sign of finer stones having been laid over them.

The stones are such as could be picked up upon the surface of the land, and some of the fossils which distinguish the top-rock at Headington and Bullingdon Green can be seen in some examples. The surface of the road clearly rises toward the middle of the present roadway.' (*Archaeologia Oxoniensis*, 1892–5, 323–4).

The archive contains Hurst's drawings of the street surface, made after the collapse of the cellar wall.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**14 Castle Street (section W F54) 1970**
SP 51151 06120
T G Hassall for OAEC
Archive OxMus 85.134; Oxon SMR PRN 6304

A transverse section on the former line of Castle St was recorded during redevelopment for the Westgate Centre. A sequence of 18 successive street surfaces was recorded. The earliest surface was heavily compacted, and consisted of fragments of irregular limestone cobbles, small stones and coarse gravel. It was set into a thin layer of original topsoil.

Report: Hassall *et al.* 1989, 124–5, figs 17–18, 20

**15 Castle St Selfridges 1970–72**
Grid squares SP 511 060/511 061; various locations
J Haslam and H Woods for OAEC
Archive OxMus. 75.350; Oxon SMR PRN 6692

Watching briefs were carried out during the excavation of a deep basement for the former Selfridge's department store, during the Westgate Centre redevelopment. The Selfridges site had a short frontage onto Bonn Square, and was bounded to the W by the Westgate site (Gaz No. 115), to the E by St Ebbe's Street, and to the S by new units within the shopping centre. In places the medieval features had been largely removed by later cellarage; recorded features consisted largely of numerous pits, and those datable to the 10th or 11th century were concentrated along the Castle St frontage.

Report: Hassall *et al.* 1989, 111–130, figs 15 and 16

**16 Catte St 1980**
Grid square SP 516 063; various locations
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6505

An area of the primary street surface was seen during observation of three trenches dug for new manholes. The primary surface was seen in the most northerly of the trenches, and was metalled with 15 mm pebbles in a single layer, pushed into the loam topsoil. Evidence for a central drain and for later repaving was also noted. The other trenches were shallow and disturbed, and did not yield any archaeological evidence.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces.

**17a Christ Church Meadow Buildings 1863**
SP 51590 05900 (estimated)
Mr Conradi
Oxon SMR PRN 6769

During the excavation of foundations for the new building, steps leading to a landing were found at about 2 ft 6 in (0.8 m) below the contemporary ground surface. After removing a depth of c 20 ft (6.1 m) of made-up ground, the builders found water running in an old river channel at the level of the old ground surface; rough pitched stone had been laid across the river bed, with a large kerb stone on one side. The kerb stone appeared to have been worn by

carts and other vehicles. Blair has calculated that the pitched stone, presumably representing a ford, must have been at a level of *c* 53.30 m OD (Blair 1988a, 229).

Noted in *Proceedings of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society*, ns i (1860–4), 218–19 and fig. opp. 218; for a recent reassessment, see Blair 1988a, 228–9, fig. 91; see also this volume Chapter 3

**17b Christ Church Meadow Buildings New Services 1974**
SP 51541 05908
B Durham for OAEC
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6296

A wall was exposed by builders constructing a manhole opposite the S door of the cloister buildings, at a point 3.40 m N of Meadow Buildings. It was a dry stone wall, with no visible filler, with an apparently weathered face comprising rough stone blocks in a fairly regular line; only the S face was seen. The wall lay at a depth of 1.30 m below the yard and was visible down to a depth of 2 m. The remains may represent a weathered wall rather than a footing.

**18 Christ Church, Garden of the South-West Lodging 1954–5**
SP 51430 05925
D Sturdy
Archive AM 1985.213; Oxon SMR PRN 6209

In excavations in the garden of the SW lodging, Sturdy found remains which may be from the medieval town wall. At the base of cutting IA was the core of a massive wall at least 5 ft thick, of rubble set in clay and loam. It had a roughly coursed rear face of large stones, and was also seen in cuttings II and IIIB. Sturdy noted that the wall was running on a line S of the direct route from Southgate to Bastion 21, so as to include the monastic buildings of St Frideswide's. The W end of the wall had been demolished when the SW lodging was built by Wolsey in the late 1520s, but the E end had been retained as a garden terrace wall until the 18th century, when it was replaced by the modern wall and steps. In cutting IB and C, the lowest layer was of fine grey silt, at least 5 ft deep, which Sturdy considered must have been deposited by a large stream running E-W; he considered this likely to be the same stream observed by Conradi at the Meadow Buildings (Gaz No. 17a) and by Hurst at Brewer St (Gaz No. 5); possibly the Trill Mill Stream in an earlier form.

Report: Sturdy 1961/2a

**19 Christ Church Cathedral Garden 1961**
SP 51561 06020
D Sturdy
Archive AM 1985.221, 223–230; Oxon SMR PRN 6207

The excavations took place in a garden that comprised the greater part of the parochial churchyard and the former medieval road of St Frideswide's Lane, which bounded it on the N. The lowest layer, of loam, was not fully excavated; its relatively pale colour and unusual depth suggested dumping. It was overlain by spreads of gravel, loam and clay into which a number of postholes had been cut, together with portions of two kilns or ovens, associated with 11th- and early 12th-century pottery. The postholes appeared to represent at least three successive structures. To the S of the cutting, this layer had been destroyed by the digging of medieval graves, many of them of infants, and by a large charnel pit. Towards the N of the cutting, the structural features were overlain by a gravel road surface which was bounded on its S side by the churchyard wall. Both the wall and the road were dated to the 12th century, and might have been connected with the refoundation of St Frideswide's as an Augustinian Priory around 1122, and the mid to late 12th-century rebuilding campaign. Subsequently the road fell into disuse and was closed.

Report: Sturdy 1961/2a, 20–25

**20 Christ Church Cathedral Latin Chapel 1962–3**
SP 51571 05995
D Sturdy
Archive AM 1976.193–530; Oxon SMR PRN 6108 (outside east end of north aisle); PRN 6297 (ditch); PRN 6250 (graves)

Excavations took place in and outside the NE chapels of Christ Church Cathedral. The N and E walls of the late 12th-century 'pre-Latin' chapel were found, and the N wall of the early 13th-century Lady Chapel. The excavations defined later stages in the development of the NE chapels, and many decorated medieval floor tiles were recovered. No evidence was found of any Anglo-Saxon structures. A number of graves (mostly with stone linings) were cut by the late 12th-century footings. A large E-W ditch was located running through the Latin Chapel and under the E end of the choir, which Sturdy considered might represent the S defences of the Anglo-Saxon *burh*.

Report: Sturdy 1988

**21 Christ Church Blue Boar Quadrangle 1965**
SP 51442 06104
H Sutermeister for OAEC
Archive AM; Oxon SMR PRN 11395/3597

A large trench in the centre of Blue Boar Street Coal Yard revealed traces of medieval occupation in tenements west of St Edward's Lane, and a 12th-century street surface.

**22 Christ Church Tom Quad 1972**
SP 51500 05966
T G Hassall for OAEC
Archive AM 1985.214; Oxon SMR PRN 6226

Two burials and a small quantity of other human bone were recorded following disturbance by workmen reconstructing a surface soakaway in the SE corner of the quad. The two burials were lying on beds of charcoal, and an uncorrected radiocarbon

determination obtained from the earlier grave suggested a date in the second quarter of the 9th century. For a subsequent recalibration of this date, see Appendix 2 of this volume, below.

Report: Hassall 1973, 270–4, fig. 2

**23 Christ Church Cathedral Cloister 1985**
SP 51535 05949
C Scull and B Durham for OAU
Archive AM 1995.106; Oxon SMR PRN 6066

Excavations in the cloister garth showed that exposed masonry was part of a rectangular, corner-buttressed foundation, dated to the 2nd quarter of the 16th century, and interpreted as the footing of a timber belfry. In addition, numerous burials were recovered, belonging to a cemetery which had gone out of use by the mid 12th century. Many graves had been destroyed or damaged by medieval pits. Radiocarbon dating of samples from four graves confirmed that the cemetery was in use by the 9th or, at the latest, by the 10th century (see Appendix 2, below).

Report: Scull 1988

**24 Church St 31–34 1968–70**
Grid square SP 511 060; various locations
T G Hassall and others for OAEC
Archive OxMus 75.24, 75.25; Oxon SMR PRN 6212 (pits); 6213 (ditch)

The former Church St now survives only at its E end (renamed Pennyfarthing Place), but prior to the Westgate Centre redevelopment it ran across the centre of St Ebbe's, from its junction with Castle St and Paradise St in the W, to St Ebbe's church in the E. Full-scale excavation took place at this site, known to have been occupied by two tenements in the medieval period. The earliest datable feature was a N-S ditch, which was also seen further N on the Westgate site (Gaz No. 115). The ditch was sealed by the earliest street surface, probably datable to the first half of the 10th century. There were numerous cess pits and rubbish pits, datable to the 10th and 11th centuries; there was evidence for possible property division in the 12th century, but no buildings earlier than the 14th century were identifiable. Numerous finds connected with medieval textile-, leather-, and metalworking and skinning were also recovered.

Report: Hassall *et al.* 1989, 81–110

**25 Church Street (section W50) 1970**
SP 51158 06036
T G Hassall for OAEC
Oxon SMR PRN 6214

A complete section (W F50) was recorded across Church St, which showed a sequence of 8 successive street surfaces. The earliest surface consisted of cobbles and compacted gravel pressed into the underlying topsoil, and was comparable with the earliest surface of Castle St.

Report: Hassall *et al.* 1989 121–4, figs 17, 19

**26 Church Street (section W F73) 1970**
SP 51066 06044
T G Hassall for OAEC
Oxon SMR PRN 6214

Three sections were observed and photographed; one of these (W F73) confirmed that the original street surface had extended at least as far as the extreme W end of Church St.

Report: Hassall *et al.* 1989 121–4, Figs 17, 19

**27 Cornmarket House N of St Michael's Tower 1904**
SP 51273 06374
Archive MS Top. Oxon. d.185 f.72–3; Oxon SMR PRN 6797

Following demolition of the house immediately N of the church tower, blocked openings in the N wall of the tower were rediscovered. An E-W wall was encountered at fourteen to sixteen ft deep, some twenty ft N of the tower, perhaps some part of the Northgate, although not shown on the 1772 plan.

See also this volume Chapter 4, St Michael at the Northgate Tower Survey

**28 Cornmarket Tredwells Yard 1912**
SP 51285 06390
P Manning
Archive Bodl MS Top. Oxon. a.24, f.2–5; Oxon SMR PRN 6796

During building work, the foundations of the town wall were seen on the north of the churchyard of St. Michael's, built on a series of relieving arches.

See also this volume Chapter 4, St Michael at the Northgate Tower Survey

**29 Cornmarket St Michael at the Northgate 1972–3**
SP 51310 06380
B Durham for OAEC
Archive OxMus 1975.43; Oxon SMR PRN 6113 (church); PRN 6261 (Saxon defences)

Archaeological observations were carried out during the contractors' excavations for the basement of a new vestry and church centre. Evidence of the original late Saxon rampart was recovered, in the form of a wedge of redeposited natural soil and gravel which appeared to be a turf bank surviving to a height of 1.45 m. The bank survived only at the east end of the churchyard, where it was unaffected by later church building, and only the north face was seen. This had been cut through or revetted by a rubble wall, packed with red soil; the N face of the wall was formed by large stone blocks, but there was no face on the S side, where it abutted the turf bank. It was built directly onto the gravel, and a layer of concretion had formed at the intersection. The inner lip and upper edges of the associated ditch were recorded 3.8 m to the N. Some 14 m north of the rampart was the medieval town wall, constructed on

the backfill of the Saxon ditch; it was mostly of good coral rag, and was carried on massive stone foundation arches. This corroborated the evidence of previous observations and early maps, that the medieval defences had formed a forward enclosure around St Michael's church. Immediately south of the medieval wall, however, the excavations revealed the remains of an earlier wall, built of rough ragstones, which appeared to be leaning northwards as if subsiding into the fills of the late Saxon ditch beneath. This wall had been partly cut away on its north side by the construction trench for the later medieval wall. Very little dating evidence was recovered, but on the basis of a small pottery assemblage it was tentatively suggested that the later wall of the enclosure had been built after 1100, and the earlier wall some decades before, but probably not before the mid 11th century. It was argued that the forward enclosure had been created as an enlargement to the church's graveyard, and it was clear that at least one grave had been dug between the building of the first enclosure wall and the building of the second.

Report: Durham *et al.* 1983, 14–18, fig. 2

**30 Cornmarket St Michael at the Northgate 1985–6**
**Tower Survey**
SP 51304 06389
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6113

During modifications in advance of the opening of the tower to the public, detailed recording of the interior and exterior stonework was undertaken, and a watching brief was maintained on the internal alterations. There was no evidence of the original church which would have been contemporary with the mid-11th century construction of the tower. The survey showed that the N window on the ground floor of the tower was an original feature, which suggested that the tower had not been built on an exposed part of the defensive line.

Report: This volume Chapter 4

**31 Cornmarket St 13–21 (Market St 10–19) 1959–61**
SP 51310 06290
D Sturdy for AM and OEC
Archive AM 1985:160–176; Oxon SMR PRN 6205

Following the demolition of 19th-century buildings, excavation took place in the area of yards behind the houses. Subsequently the site was redeveloped for shops, and observations were made of the clearance for a basement on the street frontage. A large area of undisturbed natural loamy topsoil was observed along the W edge of the site; it was unclear whether this would have lain within the late Saxon street, or whether it represented an open space within a large enclosure whose buildings were not seen. The earliest recorded features were two pits of 10th- or 11th-century date; numerous pits of 12th-century date were also recorded, together with a short length of wall and a thin yard surface, culminating in evidence for a major fire towards the end of the 12th century. Subsequently fragmentary sections of house and garden walls and yard floors were seen.

Report: Sturdy and Munby 1985, 49–57

**32 Cornmarket St 36 (former Leopold Arms) 1906**
SP 51257 06359
Allfrey and Manning
Archive Bodl MS Top. Oxon. a.90; MS Top. Oxon. a.24; Oxon SMR PRN 6717

The demolition of the Leopold Arms revealed two phases of construction on the west side of the North Gate, and showed that the gate was constructed on the fill of the town ditch, whose original edge was near the N wall of 37 Cornmarket St on the corner of St Michael's St.

**33 Cornmarket St former Clarendon Hotel 1954–7**
Grid square SP 512 062; various locations
J Alexander, B Hope-Taylor, E M Jope, K Marshall, W A Pantin, D Sturdy
Archive AM; Oxon SMR PRN 6198

Arguably the single most important excavation of late Saxon remains in Oxford. A wealth of detail was recovered during building recording and archaeological monitoring at this site despite the often very inadequate conditions in which work had to take place. During the demolition of the Clarendon Hotel, Pantin undertook a building survey to recover the structural history of the medieval and later inns on the site. The hotel wine cellar was recognised as a 12th-century vaulted structure and recorded in detail. From detailed recording of features of the above-ground building, Pantin was able to suggest a reconstruction of the form of the original 12th-century tenement. The observation of archaeological deposits, directed by Jope, was restricted to the area of a grid of 15 sq ft pits sunk by the building contractors, but nevertheless allowed the recording of features over an area extending some 65–70 m back from the road. In a broad strip along the street frontage an intensive series of late Saxon cellars, pits and wells was observed, which appeared to extend at least 8–10 ft (2.44–3 m) E of the modern street frontage. A variety of cellar-pit types was seen, with small pits roughly 2.5 × 2.5 m in plan at the street frontage, and two large cellars at least 6 × 3 m in plan further back on the plots. Some evidence for the form of the structures was recovered, and many appeared to have been lined with wattle and daub. Evidence for contemporary ground-laid buildings was very slight owing to the extent of later truncation. Numerous pits and wells were also recorded. A very wide range of finds was recovered from the fills of the cellars, pits and wells, of which the most notable was a mould for the casting of silver ingots. To the rear of the street frontage strip, for a space of at least 150 ft, there were no structures and this land may have represented open yards or gardens. From the middle of the 12th century the building line appeared to have been

taken back to approximately the line of the modern street frontage.

Report: Jope and Pantin 1958

**34 Cornmarket St 44–46 1970**
SP 51260 06320
T G Hassall for OAEC, with D Carpenter, H Richmond, J Sorowka and T Ward
Archive OxMus 75.32; Oxon SMR PRN 6217

Archaeological observation was carried out during the mechanical excavation of a new basement. A pre-existing cellar had removed all detailed stratification from the site, but a total of 36 pits were inferred or recorded. Seven pits were shown to be of late Saxon date, infilled in the 11th century, and were concentrated along the street frontage and the N side of the site. All were rectangular in shape, and had been cut into the natural gravel; there was no evidence for any lining. As had been observed at the Clarendon Hotel site, the late Saxon pits projected forwards into the W side of Cornmarket St. Evidence of late Saxon bone and iron-working was recovered, and four sawn cattle horn cores suggested horn working. Three pits underlay the boundary wall between the site of numbers 44 and 43 Cornmarket St, which implied that this property boundary was not fixed until the 12th or 13th century. One pit, No. 36, was archaeologically excavated. It stood towards the front of the site, beneath the modern pavement, and measured approximately 3 × 2.5 m in plan; several pieces of burnt daub with impressed wattle marks were found in the fill. This was considered by the excavator to have been a cellar-pit.

Report: Hassall 1971a

**35 Cornmarket St 55–58 1962**
SP 51310 06230
J Cherry for OEC
Archive AM 1985:70–115; Oxon SMR PRN 6216

Prior to the demolition of the Victorian grocer's shop Grimbly Hughes, excavations were carried out in the cellars of the building. Excavation beneath the modern pavement failed to identify any early metalled street surfaces, confirming the findings from the Clarendon Hotel site that the late Saxon street may have been as much as 3 m E of the modern frontage. Evidence of late Saxon occupation occurred along the E edge of the site; as well as pits, the most notable feature excavated was part of a shallow sunken hut with a substantial posthole at one end. Numerous stake-holes and postholes were recorded in the adjacent area. In the early 11th century a large cellar pit was dug on the site (4.6 × 9.2 m, surviving to a depth of 1.45 m). It had near-vertical sides and the impressions of a collapsed timber wall or lining were recorded. Very little evidence remained of the shops and buildings which occupied the street frontage from the 12th century onwards. A remarkable assemblage of 16th-century money boxes was recovered from pit G4.

Report: Sturdy and Munby 1985, 59–76

**36 Corpus Christi College Front Quad, Merton Street 1972**
SP 51613 06052
T G Hassall for OAEC
Oxon SMR PRN 6201

A small salvage excavation located a large gully or ditch running NE-SW across the front quad. It was more than 4 m deep, cut through loam and filled with unstable black mud. Natural gravel was not seen in the trench.

Report: Hassall 1973, 274 and fig. 3

**37 Corpus Christi College Bastion 21 1981**
SP 51599 05976
E Forfang and B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 1986.125; Oxon SMR PRN 3461

The largest of Oxford's medieval bastions was investigated by survey and small-scale trenching in advance of its conversion to a music room, in an attempt to clarify the function of the bastion and the line taken by the town defences around the priory of St Frideswide's. The results were inconclusive. The earliest features recovered were disarticulated human bone associated with early 12th-century pottery, and a stone feature, possibly part of the town wall or a road surface, which was succeeded by the construction of the bastion, datable to the 13th century. The bastion appeared to be contemporary with the town wall running eastwards from the site, and with a short length of wall running southwards, which may also have been part of the town wall.

Report: this volume Chapter 4, Corpus Christi College Bastion 21

**38 Corpus Christi College 1986**
SP 51590 06070
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU: Oxon SMR PRN 6464

Observations on the line of the former Shidyerd St showed no sign of metalling on the original topsoil, although this may have been subject to disturbance by a cellar.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**39 Dead Man's Walk 1994**
SP 51780 06040
D Sturdy
Trenching at the foot of the wall near the bastion revealed an earlier foundation built on relieving arches.

**40 Exeter College Rector's Lodging, Turl St 1857**
SP 51473 06407
J Parker
Oxon SMR PRN 6242

During the digging of foundations for the Rector's lodgings, 'remains of what appeared to be the ancient ditch were reached *just within the line of the city wall*'. It was noted that 'considerable remains of wood, especially osiers, were found in the black mud at the bottom, such as might well have been thrown

in when the ditch was filled up and the vallum destroyed, the new wall having been erected on the outside of the old ditch' (Parker 1885, 238).

**41 Exeter College Margary Quad, Broad St/NE corner of Turl St, 1962–3**
SP 51429 06432
D Sturdy
Oxon SMR PRN 6231

Observations were undertaken during work on new college buildings. No trace of the town wall survived but immediately S of its line a deposit of red loamy topsoil 3 ft 3 ins thick was observed overlying 9 ins of loamy topsoil above undisturbed gravel. Sturdy considered that this might represent a bank on the line of the wall in Saxon times. No finds were recovered from it.

Report: Archaeological Notes, *Oxoniensia* **28** (1963), Oxford Broad St (3), 91

**42 Exeter College Crowther Hunt Building, Turl St 1984–6**
SP 51481 06434
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6673

Excavations for the building revealed remains of the college privies, and traces of the ditch extending far into Broad St.

Report: OAU Newsletter XI.4 (Dec 1984), 4; OAU Newsletter XIV.4 (Dec 1986), 4

**43 Frewin Court Frewin Hall 1976–7**
SP 51200 06250
J Blair
Archive OxMus 86.118, 86.119, 86.171; Oxon SMR PRN 3525

Limited excavation, building survey and documentary research was carried out in conjunction with a programme by Brasenose College to redevelop the property for student accommodation. The vaulted cellar of Frewin Hall was identified as the undercroft of an important stone house probably built between 1090 and 1150. From 1435, the site was occupied by St Mary's College for Austin Canons; the foundations of the college chapel were found by excavation, and upstanding fragments of the college gatehouse and a subsidiary range were identified.

Report: Blair 1978

**44 George St and Cornmarket Street: former George Hotel 1910**
SP 51250 06390
Oxon SMR PRN 6798

During rebuilding work on the corner of Cornmarket Street, observations were made of the town ditch, which reached almost to the edge of George St. On the E side of the site, a battered stone revetment was seen, which was interpreted as a causeway leading to the Northgate. The foundations of the projecting gate buildings were found to be built on ditch fill.

Report: Salter 1912, 80–1; see also this volume Chapter 4, St Michael at the Northgate Tower Survey

**45 George St 37/St Michael's St 32, Bastion 2 1972**
SP 51150 06320
T G Hassall for OAEC
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 3440/6275/6277/6290/6534/6289

During demolition work the rear wall of 32 St Michael's St was exposed to reveal part of the base of Bastion 2. It was built on a berm which yielded two sherds of medieval pottery of unknown date. Gravel which may mark the N edge of the town ditch was seen in the basement of 37 George St.

Report: Hassall 1973, 'The Reform Club'

**46 George St 39 1982**
SP 51108 06334
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 1986.208; 1986.143; Oxon SMR PRN 6277/6290/6649/6651

A section of town ditch was observed within a series of contractors' trenches. Medieval pottery and tile were recovered.

Report: Durham *et al.* 1983

**47 George St 40 1977–8**
SP 51055 06282
J Fox and T Dixon with OUAS
Archive AM 86.135; Oxon SMR PRN 6649 (Medieval and Civil War)

Three trenches were excavated against the town wall during landscaping work at the Oxford University Social Studies Library. A large ditch was found, at least 12 m wide, running approximately N-S; quantities of late 12th- or early 13th-century pottery in its fill confirmed that it predated the stone defences. The profile of its E edge was recorded in Trench 3.

Report: Durham *et al.* 1983, 18–19, figs 3a, 3b

**48 Grandpont bridge surveys 1984**
P McKeague and B Durham for OAU
Oxon SMR PRN 6216; 6600

A survey of the causeway S of Folly Bridge was conducted to record the position of any visible portions of the Norman stone causeway and to record the profile of the Norman arches. Five Norman arches were surveyed; the Norman masonry was found to consist of ragstone vaults and the causeway narrowed slightly from a maximum width of 4 m to an approximate 3.6 m (rebuilt). In addition, the core of the original bridge has been exposed during roadworks, and manholes constructed on the existing surface water drain have shown solid mortared ragstone in five out of seven cases observed along the Abingdon Road. The observations suggest that the stone causeway was at least 700 m long, extending from St Aldate's in the N, to the Hinksey stream bordering Eastwyke in the S. The Romanesque arches were not closely datable,

however, and there was no conclusive evidence that the recorded stone causeway was the original structure built by Robert d'Oilly.

Report: Durham 1984a, 87–91, figs 15, 16, plate 2, fiche B13–14 and C02–06

**49 Greyfriars 1968–76**
Grid square SP 511 059; various locations
T G Hassall for OAEC and OAU
Archive OxMus 75.27; Oxon SMR PRN 6009

The site of the church and precinct of the Greyfriars lay in the S half of St Ebbe's parish, in an area bounded by Church St to the N, St Ebbe's St to the E, and the Trill Mill stream to the S. The excavations, which took place in advance of the Westgate Centre redevelopment, concentrated on the recovery of the plan of the church and some of the claustral buildings, dating from the mid 13th century onwards. There was very little evidence for late Saxon occupation on the site, although material from excavated pits showed that the area had been occupied from the late 12th century. The friars' church was built across the line of the town wall, and the truncated town wall was seen to abut it at the E end of the choir. Subsequently the N wall of the church came to form an integral part of the town wall. Little trace of the demolished original town wall was recovered; to the W of the church, a narrow and poorly-mortared wall was found which could have preserved the line of the town wall, although its construction was much slighter.

Report: Hassall *et al.* 1989, 140–194

**50 The Hamel 1975–6**
SP 50765 06140
N Palmer for OAEC, with OUAS
Archive AM 1982: 288–555; Oxon SMR PRN 3247, 6349

The site, which lay in St Thomas's parish (the W suburb of medieval Oxford), was excavated in advance of redevelopment by Christ Church. There was a well-stratified sequence of medieval occupation beginning in the late 12th century, and substantial remains of house plans.

Report: Palmer 1980

**51 Head of the River/42 St Aldate's 1994**
SP 5147 0562
P Booth for OAU
Archive OxMus 1994.55

Three trenches were excavated ahead of development by Hertford College. Trench III was dug from the cellar of No. 42 St Aldate's and the area seems to have been unused during the late Saxon and Norman periods, although flax was recovered. Occupation started no earlier than the late 12th century and may not have been continuous thereafter. The area of Trench 1 appears to have been marginal land on the very edge of the Trill Mill Stream, possibly part of the stream itself at some points in the medieval period. A timber stream-edge structure was recorded, that may have been reinforcing the stream bank; the structure is of mid 14th-century date, or later. The high level of the natural gravel in Trench 2 was notable; the trench showed evidence of dumping in the 13th and 14th centuries to consolidate the ground. Dumping continued across the site in the later medieval period and evidence of post-medieval structures was found in Trenches 1 and 3.

Report: this volume Chapter 3

**52 Hertford College/St Helen's Passage 1974–5**
SP 51647 06493
N Palmer and B Durham for OAEC with OUAS
Archive OxMus 86.209; Oxon SMR PRN 6276

Excavations in advance of redevelopment by Hertford College showed that a modern boundary wall was set over the remains of the medieval outer town wall; the existence of the outer wall had previously been known only from documentary evidence. The small amount of pottery recovered was consistent with a date of construction in the 13th century. The excavated length of the wall was found to contain a postern which gave access onto the water-filled town ditch.

Report: Palmer 1976

**53 Hertford College/Holywell St 51–55/St Helen's Passage 1980**
SP 51622 06490
B Durham and N Palmer for OAU
Archive OxMus 1986.117; Oxon SMR PRN 6276

Observations were carried out during the second phase of building work on Hertford College's new quadrangle behind 51–55 Holywell St. The work exposed a length of the outer town wall immediately W of that seen during archaeological work in 1974 (Gaz No. 52, St Helen's Passage, above). The outer town wall was seen to have been built in the bottom of a large ditch, cut into natural gravel. A 22 m length of the wall was exposed, and was found to be 1.05 m thick, composed of coursed limestone rubble. A mid 13th-century date for the construction of the wall was suggested by the pottery recovered. The ditch appeared to have been cleaned out periodically, and infilled rapidly in the 17th century.

Report: Durham *et al.* 1983, 28, figs 1 and 5

**54 High St 5 1976**
SP 51360 06200
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 3573

Redevelopment of the former Sainsbury's grocery shop as an extension to Lloyd's Bank showed areas of 20–30 mm quartzite pebble metalling on the original ground surface extending at least 2.2 m back (ie N) behind the modern High St frontage. Stones described as 'limestone sets' formed a secondary surface 0.1 m above the first.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**55 High St 33 (Drawda Hall) 1982**
SP 51733 06274
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6516

A section of the middle of the High St was recorded during sewerage work (Fig. 5.26). A drawing dated 14.2.82 shows a primary street surface of pebbles at 59.7 m OD (*c* 1.6 m below existing), with no appreciable camber towards a central drain (Fig. 5.26, feature 1). This feature was cut by a later drain (Fig. 5.26, feature 2).

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces and observations of the mid-road drain or 'kennel'

**56 High St 91 1979**
SP 51658 06254
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6516

A metalled street surface was observed at 2.08 m below the modern ground surface, in orange sandy clay. As natural gravel was not seen, it was unclear whether this was the primary surface.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**57 High Street 126 1972**
SP 51440 06193
J Munby

A group of 25 sherds dating to the 12th century were recovered from below a stone lined cess-pit, evidently deriving from an earlier rubbish pit. Other finds included burnt daub, an incomplete loom-weight and a clay spindlewhorl.

Report: Munby 1975, 300–303

**58 High St Examination Schools 1876**
SP 51860 06202 (centred)
H Hurst
Archive AM; Oxon SMR PRN 6023 (Saxon); 6110 (small finds only)

Following the demolition of the Angel Inn for the building of the new Examination Schools, the site was inspected by Hurst, and several pits were cleared under the direction of the architect. The landscape of pits was misinterpreted at the time as a British village of pit dwellings, but finds, including metal-working crucibles, were recovered from the site and deposited with the Ashmolean Museum. Part of the medieval pottery assemblage was subsequently identified and published by Bruce-Mitford and Jope (1940; Jope 1952/3), including a fine pitcher of Stamford Ware now in the British Museum. Jope considered that the site probably comprised numerous cellar-pits of the kind seen at the Clarendon Hotel.

Report: *Archaeologia Oxoniensis* 1892–95, 7–14

**59 High St All Saints Church 1973–4**
SP 51480 06235
T G Hassall, B Durham and H Woods for OAEC, with OUAS
Archive OxMus 1975.45; Oxon SMR PRN 6115

All Saints Church was declared redundant in 1971, and archaeological work took place during its conversion to a library for Lincoln College. Controlled excavation took place on one sixth of the interior of the church, followed by a detailed watching brief of the contractors' remaining excavations. Apart from a number of unstratified sherds of Roman pottery, the earliest material from the site was an extensive spread of charred grain found on the original ground surface. The site appears to have been in domestic occupation in the late Saxon period, and two successive buildings were identified, the first possibly with a post and mud wall, and the second with a wall based on substantial postholes. A fenceline may have marked a property boundary. Subsequently, there was a substantial cellar pit on the site during the earlier 11th century. The foundation of the church would seem to date from the appearance of a small stone structure, probably datable to the later 11th century. The excavations recovered evidence for the gradual development and extension of the church up to the mid 14th century, and melting hearths associated with bell-founding were recorded. A number of burials were recovered, and appear to derive from an early external graveyard, probably 12th-century in date, and subsequently from the interior of the church. The fully developed plan of the main body of the medieval church was recovered, although no evidence was recovered for the tower or chapels giving off the S aisle. Observations of a sewer connection (Trench VI) recovered evidence of the primary street surface of the High St, which was here a metalled surface of small pebbles, lying directly on natural gravel.

Report: an interim report was published in *Oxoniensia* **39** (1974); the full report is in this volume Chapter 5

**60 High Street Surface Water Drain 1981 and Foul Sewer 1983**
High Street, west end; various locations
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 6516

Two watching briefs were carried out during the construction of new sewers along the High St. A deep square-cut ditch was observed, possibly contemporary with the original metalling of the street; this is interpreted as the mid-road drain which functioned during the first two centuries of the town's existence.

Report: this volume Chapter 5, observations of the medieval mid-road drain or 'kennel'

*(Two further High St sites have been added as Nos 117 and 118 below)*

**61 Littlegate/Littlegate St/St Ebbe's St 1971**
SP 51228 05955
B Durham for OAEC; Tr IV observed by H Woods for OAEC
Archive OxMus 75.33; Oxon SMR PRN 3462

Following the demolition of housing along St Ebbe's St, in advance of the Westgate Centre redevelopment, excavations took place to record evidence for the early defences and the Littlegate, and to trace the line of the medieval town wall. Two lengths of the wall were revealed, differing markedly in their construction; the W base of the Littlegate was also located. No trace was found of any earlier defensive structures. An 11th-century pit was recorded, which was succeeded by evidence for shallow quarrying. A series of probable floor layers, associated with late 12th-century pits, suggested that the area had been used for domestic occupation before the building of the town wall in the early 13th century.

Report: Durham 1989

**62 Littlegate St Catacombs Youth Centre 1971**
SP 51195 05880
H Richmond for OAEC
Archive OxMus 75.33; Oxon SMR PRN 6262

During a watching brief on the excavation of a new youth club basement, stream debris was observed across the whole site, with no trace of the S bank of the Trill Mill Stream. Stream fill was reported to a depth of 14 ft, which would represent a level of about 52.5 m OD. This area would lie at the junction of the mill stream with a drain coming from the SW, which appears on all the early plans and may account for extra depth at the junction.

**63 Logic Lane 1960–61**
SP 51786 06194
F Radcliffe OP for OEC, with D Sturdy
Archive AM; Oxon SMR PRN 6202

Excavation and watching briefs located substantial evidence for occupation including a series of late Saxon pits which contained a large quantity of St Neot's-type ware. The first surface of the former Kybald St was revealed, probably laid around 1130, and beam slots, postholes and stone walls were recorded, representing the subsequent delineation and development of tenements.

Report: Radcliffe 1961/2; see also this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**64 Longwall St 21 1979–80**
SP 51935 06455
B Durham for OAU, N Palmer for OUAS
Archive OxMus 86.167; Oxon SMR PRN 6613

Excavations on the line of the outer town wall at New College were carried out in advance of the conversion of William Morris's garage of 1910 into residential accommodation. The excavations examined the fills of the town ditch, and supported the view that the bulk infilling of the ditch occurred in the mid 17th century; the outer wall had been set into the silts of an earlier ditch profile with 13th-century pottery. In Trench II, a bastion of the outer wall was located.

Report: Durham *et al.* 1983, 23–7

**65 Magdalen College St John's Hospital 1987**
SP 52120 06145
B Durham for OAU
Archive AM 86.88: Oxon SMR PRN 6708

The present site of Magdalen College was occupied by the medieval hospital from 1231 to 1457. Excavation, survey and a watching brief were carried out during the moving of the college kitchens, and revealed new evidence of major medieval buildings on the site. In addition, it was shown that an artificial embankment had been constructed at the edge of the river Cherwell, and a culverted water supply had been provided for the infirmary.

Report: Durham 1991

**66 Merton College, New Warden's Lodgings 1963**
SP 5190 0615
D Sturdy

The footings of the town wall were observed during bulldozing for foundations for a new principal's house. Within the walls a deposit of red loam and topsoil may represent a late Saxon bank thrown up on the line of the existing wall of the 13th century.

Report: Archaeological Notes, *Oxoniensia* **28**, 1963, 91

**67 Merton College Grove 1970**
SP 51670 06003
T G Hassall for OAEC
Archive OxMus 75.31; Oxon SMR PRN 6246, 6247

A trench was dug immediately N of the modern wall of the Grove, and exposed a short length of the stepped footing of the town wall, which was constructed of crudely coursed stone set with lime mortar, dated to the early 13th century. The footing was set in a layer of alluvial material which Hassall considered might be associated with a culverted stream, the 'gutter', which ran NW-SE across the site. The surface of the gravel terrace was not located. There was no evidence for any defences earlier than the 13th-century wall, and Hassall suggested that the site might have lain outside the first burghal defences.

Report: Hassall 1971b

**68 Merton St, Eastgate Hotel (formerly 4 King St)**
SP 51920 062000
H Hurst
Archive Bodl MS Top. Oxon.

Observations near the then surviving bastion on the east wall included a section across a ditch 'found to

be about twelve feet wide and to run some little way from the wall, which was there just six feet thick, made of small stones and mortar that had perished'.

Report: Hurst 1899, 126

**69 New College Town Wall, Holywell Street 1949**
SP 51918 06434
L Alcock, A G Hunter and E M Jope
Archive AM; Oxon SMR PRN 6036

Three trenches were dug against the N face of the inner town wall in order to investigate the nature of the wall footings, which were found to be of unworked corallian blocks, bonded with lime mortar, and built directly on the natural gravel; their construction was dated to some time after 1200. A small gravel bank had been constructed against the footings of the wall. Trench 1 revealed a deep gully partially overlain by the wall; reassessment of this feature led to the suggestion that it could have represented part of the late Saxon defences (Durham *et al.* 1983, 26–7).

Report: Hunter and Jope 1951

**70 New College Town Wall, Holywell Street 1993**
SP 51731 06462
P Booth for OAU
Archive AM 1995.100; Oxon SMR PRN 6261, 6275

An excavation and watching brief were carried out in advance of cable-laying; an earthwork rampart, probably of late Saxon date, was observed on the S side of the standing medieval town wall. In addition, evidence was recovered of a medieval building located against the outer face of the town wall, adjacent to bastion 14.

Report: Booth 1995; see also this volume Chapter 4

**71 New Inn Hall St 1–7 1980**
SP 51162 06172
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU Oxford Notebook 5, T & OxMus 86.172; Oxon SMR PRN 6501

A fragment of small-pebble metalling on topsoil was observed during a drain connection, at a depth of 2.4 m below tarmac.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**72 New Inn Hall St 18–24 1979**
SP 51170 06220
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 86.174; Oxon SMR PRN 6501

Observation of work on a timber-framed building revealed evidence of earlier stone-based houses, and the floors of an 11th- to 12th-century building fronting Shoe Lane. On the New Inn Hall St frontage, a metalled surface of cobbles was seen just above the original ground surface at 62.41 m OD; a coin of Edward the Elder was found pressed onto the surface of one of the cobbles. A report on this coin can be found in this volume Chapter 6, finds from sites in the town.

Report: Durham 1980a; see also this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**73 Oriel St Tunnel 1985**
SP 51599 06188
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU Oxford drawings; Oxon SMR PRN 6799

A watching brief was kept on the excavation of a tunnel between Oriel College and the 'island site', and although the supervisor made no specific record of the primary street surface, a marginal note on the section drawing suggests there was no metalling on the surface of the 0.1 m of original topsoil. E of the modern street line the topsoil disappeared altogether, as if worn away before the street was laid out.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**74 Oxford Castle 1952**
SP 50973 06168
E M Jope for Ashmolean Museum
Archive AM/British Museum 1953.0501; Oxon SMR PRN 3201/6087/6577

In 1952, Jope carried out a small research excavation in an area where the Norman castle mound had been cut back during the 19th century. He found a network of pits and hollows that had been cut away when the ditch was dug around the mound. Most of the excavated hollows were long in shape and had floors in them, some of which were clearly good clay or gravel floors with levels of occupation debris including ash overlying them. Considerable quantities of burnt daub also indicated that there had been buildings in the vicinity, and Jope concluded that the hollows probably represented houses; either the cellars of houses with a timber superstructure, or sunken huts of the type familiar from early Saxon settlements. Two pieces of crucible were also recovered, one used and one unused. Jope considered that the late Saxon occupation at the site began in the early 11th century, or in the late 10th century at the earliest. The excavation also revealed detail of the construction of the mound and the encircling ditch, which ran directly around the base of the mound with no intervening berm. The ditch was lined with blue clay to consolidate the sides and the clay had been carried up a short distance as capping for the mound to consolidate the loose gravel and prevent slippage. Pottery recovered from the site has been of considerable significance for the establishment of Oxford's pottery chronology, since the construction of the mound can be dated with some confidence to the year 1071 from documentary sources.

Report: Jope 1952/3

**75 Oxford Castle, 1965–1973**
SP 51076 06125
T G Hassall for OAEC
Archive OxMus 75.37; Oxon SMR PRN 6089

A series of small excavations around the base of the castle mound were carried out by Hassall in 1965–7 and 1972, in advance of construction works nearby. The results confirmed Jope's earlier findings relating

to the construction of the mound and the encircling ditch. In addition a number of boreholes sunk through the mound showed that it was principally composed of brown medium to coarse sand and fine gravel, similar to the natural gravel at this point; this was presumably upcast from the digging of the ditch. Hassall carried out further excavations on the eastern defences of the castle, the moat and the barbican in advance of the construction of the new County Hall, between 1965 and 1973. An area of late Saxon occupation was identified on the east of the castle, sealed by the clay lining of the moat or by the bailey bank. A number of pits and occupation layers datable to the late Saxon period were seen, but the most important find was a late Saxon sunken hut, measuring 4.78 × 2.26 m, and 1.04 m deep below the old topsoil. Six postholes were identified around its edges, and the floor was of red clay with an overlying ashy occupation level. A sherd from the floor, and two from the backfill, were of St Neot's type ware, and occupation layers above also contained St Neot's ware. The excavator argued that the depth of occupation deposits suggested the presence of a built-up street frontage here, on which the hut was aligned. The evidence suggested that this street would have been aligned east-west, representing the continuation of Queen St/Castle St, the western arm of the principal east-west axis of the town. Whether this proposed street and the associated occupation was intramural or suburban remains unclear. The excavations also revealed the line, profile and form of the castle moat in the area, and detail of the construction of the barbican of 1216. The probable site of the first church of St Budoc was identified; the church was removed and resited outside the castle defences during the construction of the barbican. The excavations found what was probably the south wall of the original church, and two burials. Since the burials sealed pits containing late 11th- to early 12th-century pottery, it seems likely that the construction of the church must be datable to this period or later.

Report: Hassall 1976

**76 Paradise St 1980**
SP 50978 06054
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 86.164; Oxon SMR PRN 6513

A 12th-century black cobbled surface was observed at 1.35 m below tarmac, possibly a stone-lined drain or a stone causeway.

See also this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**77 Paradise St, former OCC canteen site 1993**
SP 50945 06048
J Hiller and D Wilkinson for OAU
Archive OxMus 1993.13; Oxon SMR PRN 6411

A small section of stone wall which may be 12th-century has been interpreted as a possible part of a building on the Paradise St frontage. A series of silts formed in moving water are likely to be of 11th-century date, and suggest that the Castle Mill Stream was wider and less formalised at this time.

Report: OAU unpubl. client report

**78 Paradise Square 1994**

SP 51001 05948
A Hardy for OAU
Archive OxMus 1994.102

An evaluation revealed evidence of extramural activity in the area, beginning in the late Saxon period with a possible leat taking water from the Trill Mill Stream to the S. This was sealed by a regular alignment of shallow gullies, which could date from the 12th and 13th centuries, when the area was leased from the Greyfriars by the Friars of the Sack. Little late medieval material was found, suggesting that the area remained a secluded part of the Greyfriars' 'Paradise' until the Dissolution. In the 17th and 18th centuries the site became first a pleasure garden, and later a market garden of considerable renown.

Report: Hardy 1997

**79 Pembroke College New Library 1973**
(Fig. A1.2)
SP 51360 05948
H Woods for OAEC
Archive OxMus 75.41; Oxon SMR PRN6001

A Watching Brief was maintained on two engineers' trial pits immediately behind the town wall. Trench I (in the SW corner of the site) revealed the foundation of the town wall 1.8 m thick, built on a thin layer of red-brown clay dipping steeply to the S, with a layer of topsoil 0.4 m thick banked against the back of the footing. Above this was a loose loamy fill. Trench II was in the SE corner of the site, tight up against an existing stair. This area had much more modern disturbance, and the only useful archaeological evidence was the section adhering to the modern wall on the E side of the trench, but it was clear that there was a much greater depth of red loam above the original topsoil, 1.2 m and possibly more. Lumps and streaks of this material were also noted in the fill of a pit on the N side of the trench. Two sections from this site are reproduced as Figure A1.2.

**80 Pembroke College W Gateway 1975**
SP 51245 05999
B Durham for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 6474

An observation of drainage work revealed a metalled surface of small limestone cobbles set in the red-brown loam of the natural topsoil.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**81 Pembroke College Old Library (Broadgates) 1976**
SP 51316 05980
D Wilson for OAEC
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN6044 (med); 6077 (post-med)

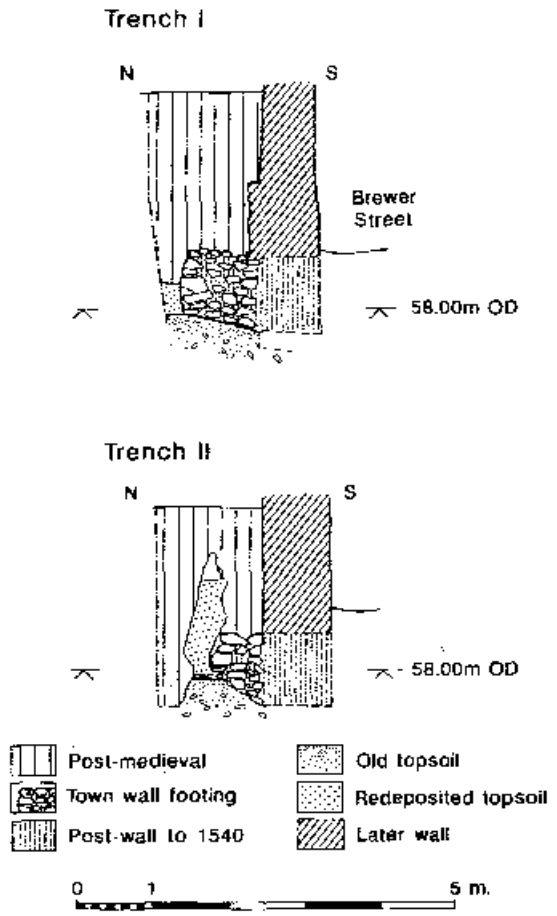



*Figure A1.2 Two sections from Pembroke College showing the possible remains of the rampart.*

A section was recorded through medieval deposits, and 12th-century pottery was recovered from 3 pits which were confined to the N and E of the area. One of the pits had continued to subside after the floors of the medieval Broadgates were laid over them; a pitched stone hearth survived in the floors. To the S and W, original topsoil was overlain by 0.45 m of 'gravel and loam fill'.

**82 Queen's Lane 1970**
SP 51836 06315
J Munby
Oxon SMR PRN 6353

An E-W section was recorded across Queen's Lane, during observation of a sewer connection for St Edmund Hall. The E length of 1.2 m was recorded before the trench collapsed, and showed a series of early gravel and loam street surfaces to a depth of 0.75 m. The original ground surface was not seen.

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**83 Queen St 4 1986**
SP 51305 06155
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 86.300; Oxon SMR PRN 6679

Excavations were undertaken in a restricted area from the bottom of a shallow basement. A sequence of three probable street surfaces of pebbles and gravel were observed. Subsequently, probably during the earlier 11th century, a well was dug on the site; two pits were also partially recovered, one of which was very substantial, with a corner posthole, and may have been a cellar pit. These features were succeeded by a sequence of floors and hearths dating from the mid 11th century into the 12th century; subsequent evidence for a stone-walled building and floor surfaces could not be closely dated.

Report: this volume Chapter 5, above

**84 Queen St 7–8 1985**
SP 51290 06145
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 1985.85; Oxon SMR PRN 6679/6680

Excavations were carried out from the basements of two adjoining shops, which were undergoing redevelopment. A large area of Trench 1 (No. 8) was occupied by an extensive 12th-century pit; this had destroyed most of the evidence for a number of earlier features, including hearths, postholes and surfaces. Preservation of early deposits was better in Trench 2 (No. 7). Here, a metalled surface was observed, lying directly on the original ground surface, and extending across the entire excavated area. It may represent the primary street surface, and if so, implies that Queen St was originally much wider at its E end. It was overlain by a series of subsequent gravel surfaces. In the early to mid 11th century a very deep pit was dug on the site, which may have been a cellar pit, although it did not produce any evidence of lining. Overlying the pit were numerous hearths and areas of burning, floors and structural features, which are dated to the later 11th and earlier 12th centuries.

Report: interim report Durham 1986; final report this volume Chapter 5, above

**85 Queen St 11–18 (Hinxey Hall) 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980**
SP 51250 06140 (centred)
T G Hassall for OAEC 1968 (Watching brief 18 Queen St); B Durham for OAEC 1972 (excavation rear of 13 Queen St, New Inn Court); R Bell for OAU 1976 (Watching Brief 13–18 Queen St); B Durham for OAU 1980 (excavation 11–12 Queen St)
Archive OxMus 75.34, 86.129, 86.131, 86.155; Oxon SMR PRN 6435, 6229, 3555, 6517

In 1968, Hassall carried out a watching brief on the redevelopment of 18 Queen St; subsequently Durham excavated at the backs of the properties. Bell observed the demolition of buildings in 1976 and Durham dug two small assessment trenches on the site of Nos 11–12 Queen St in 1980. The New Inn Court site produced three possible prehistoric postholes; in addition a timber slot, numerous stakeholes and postholes were recorded, dating from the 10th and 11th centuries, although no coherent structures could be identified. Pits of the 10th and 11th centuries were also recorded on the Queen St frontage. A series of

gravel road surfaces were recorded at 11–12 Queen St; one of the lower levels produced a single late Saxon sherd. On the S frontage of the New Inn Court site (Nos 35–37 Pembroke St), four pits containing small amounts of 10th- and 11th-century pottery were excavated. Between the 11th and early 13th centuries, few features occurred on the New Inn Court site, and it appeared that the area had been used for gardens and pit-digging. In the early to mid 13th century, a series of fragmentary floor or occupation layers were recorded, possibly associated with a scatter of pits of the same period excavated on the street frontage sites. Documentary evidence suggested that this could relate to a known tenement, Kepeharm Hall (later Hinxey Hall); the recovery of a substantial quantity of ceramic roof tiles and some highly-decorated pot-sherds suggested high-status occupation.

Report: Halpin 1983

**86 Queen St 23–26 (St Ebbe's St 1–8) 1960**
SP 51210 06130
B K Davison for OEC
Archive AM 1985.116–131; Oxon SMR PRN 6712

Excavations were undertaken from the shallow cellars of a number of houses recently demolished to make way for a new City Council office block. A concentration of pits and postholes of 10th- and 11th-century date occurred towards the Queen St frontage of the site. Amongst these features were a cellar pit with slots and recesses for timber lining, and a possible sunken hut. The late 11th and 12th centuries were characterised on the site by a lack of pit-digging, which suggested that by this date a continuously built-up street frontage had developed, whose structural features had not survived subsequent rebuilding.

Report: Sturdy and Munby 1985, 76–90

**87 Queen St 33–35 1988**
SP 51225 06160
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 1988.69; Oxon SMR PRN 6722

Excavations were undertaken during redevelopment which preserved the building's 19th-century Gothic facade, while the remainder was demolished. In all three trenches it proved impossible to resolve the many intercutting features into a datable sequence, and the results were therefore very limited. Trenches 1 and 2 revealed a series of pits and wells, the earliest of which contained late Saxon pottery, while the pottery assemblage from Trench 3 was typical of the late 12th and early 13th centuries.

Report: this volume Chapter 5, above

**88 Queen St 43–44 1989**
SP 51285 06175
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 1989.54; Oxon SMR PRN 6801

Two trenches were excavated in the property, which was scheduled for redevelopment with the preservation of its facade. The results were very limited, owing to post-medieval disturbance and redeposition of material through repeated pit-digging. A series of floor layers and pits were identified, although not dated; in addition, the original red loam ground surface was observed at the W edge of Trench II, with signs of cultivation.

Report: this volume Chapter 5, above

**89 Radcliffe Square, Bodleian Bookstack 1909**
SP 51579 06371
T E Lawrence, A B Emden *et al.*
Archive Bodl. M.S. Top. Oxon.

Observations during the construction of the underground bookstore in the NW corner of Radcliffe Square recovered much medieval and post-medieval pottery. A plan of the site suggests that the projected line of the Saxon east wall of the primary *burh* was not recognised.

**90 St Aldate's 7 1980**
SP 51374 06089
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 86.114; Oxon SMR PRN 6802

Primary metalling of random non-calcareous pebbles on gravel was observed. Herbert Hurst in 1896 noted that 'the accumulations on the old road gradually diminished to the S' past the town hall, which he attributed to the slope of the hill (Hurst 1899, 58).

See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**91 St Aldate's 33 1979**
Grid square SP 514 056; various locations
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus. 86.113; Oxon SMR PRN 6740

Salvage recording was carried out of a number of contractors' trenches, excavated for the construction of three blocks of flats. In trench IB, an auger probe showed a layer of brown peat below 52.5 m OD, extending the full length of the trench, which probably represented a deep river channel. The channel appeared to have silted up slowly on its N side, and simultaneously occupation seems to have spread S onto the growing alluvial island. Although reclamation may have begun as early as the mid-late Saxon period, the first clear evidence of occupation consisted of floor and yard surfaces and a possible beam, associated with pottery of the late 11th to 12th century. This may represent a building fronting the Norman stone bridge/causeway (Grandpont). Some evidence was noted for the division of the frontage into regular properties. Trench IV was dug for the foul sewer connection, beneath St Aldate's. At the W end of the trench, a vertical file of mortared stone was observed, faced on the W side, which is interpreted as the original W face of the Grandpont. Beneath the line of the stone structure was a large pointed stake, likely to have been the support for a previous bridge, or temporary access. The remainder of the trench was recorded as a drawn section, and showed

the construction trench for the Grandpont overlain by the make-up and floor layers of a building.

Report: Durham 1984a, figs 2, 6, 14 and fiche B09–13; see also this volume Chapter 3

**92 St Aldate's 56–60 1988–89**
SP 51410 05690
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 1989.62: Oxon SMR PRN 6740

Excavations took place in advance of redevelopment and revealed a series of revetted river banks dating from the 10th to the 12th centuries. Reclamation of the area of Trench I for building was demonstrated by the appearance of a series of dump levels, a stone wall and floor surfaces, in the late 12th to early 13th century; subsequently a succession of stone structures were built on the site. Reclamation of the area of Trench II seemed to have occurred rather later, with an absence of floors earlier than the 13th to 14th century. Observation of the foul sewer connection under the road (Trench III) failed to reveal any significant evidence.

Report: this volume Chapter 3

**93 St Aldate's 65 (former Morris Garages, now the Crown Court) 1979–81**
SP 51380 05756; various locations
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 86.112; Oxon SMR PRN 6500

Archaeological work was carried out in advance of redevelopment of the site. Trenches I and II were formally excavated in 1979, and Trench III in 1981. Trenches IV, V and VI represent observations of contractors' excavations. The lowest excavated level in Trench III revealed evidence of a late Saxon ford; deep sondages located two areas of stone paving at *c* 53.85 m OD, consisting of small slabs of Corallian limestone, water-washed and heavily eroded on all surfaces. A radiocarbon date was obtained from wattles in the stonework (HAR-5340; see Appendix 2, below); an environmental sample produced a typical stream/riverbed fauna. Subsequently the ford was overlain by layers of river silting. Around 1200 a layer of loam and domestic rubbish was dumped across the whole area to create an artificial building platform, on which a substantial building was constructed. During the course of the 13th and early 14th centuries, substantial stone walls were built to retain the river, and a new tenement appeared to have been created, which spread N as the open river channel silted up. Trench II revealed evidence of stake and wattle fences in the upper levels of alternating layers of peaty material, silt and gravel. It was observed that all layers dipped slightly to the S, as if this had been the N bank of a river channel. Similar evidence was recovered from salvage recording in Trench IV. On the N section of the contractors' trench there was an alluvial bank (at *c* 54.4 m OD) which was faced on the W by a wattle fence extending down a further 0.6 m. Against this face were contrasting silts for 2 m, followed by a N-S row of posts with horizontal planks. One of the planks was observed to have two holes, perhaps enlarged nail holes, and a clench-bolt was recovered at the same time. This suggested the reuse of boat timbers in a riverbank structure/revetment replacing the wattle wall. A sample of wattles was submitted for radiocarbon dating (HAR-5341; see Appendix 2, below). At the time of recording, no particular significance had been attached to the results from Trenches II and IV. However, the radiocarbon date forced a reconsideration, and it was suggested that the revetment seen in Trench IV might have been on the N bank of the forded channel, retaining the river edge upstream of the crossing. The subsequent discovery of similar wattle- and plank-edged river banks at the Police Station and at 56–60 St Aldate's has added weight to this interpretation.

Report: Durham 1984a, esp fiche B02–08; see also this volume Chapter 3

**94 St Aldate's 79–80 1970–71**
SP 51400 05825
B Durham for OAEC, with OUAS
Archive OxMus 1975.28; Oxon SMR PRN 6221

Excavations were undertaken in advance of redevelopment. In the earliest phase a blue clay bank was revealed, running N-S parallel to the line of the street; it spread across the trench for a width of at least 9 m, sloping down towards the W. The bank overlay a flat layer of floodplain alluvium, 0.3 m thick over natural gravel. Two gullies were cut into the bank, one of which was lined with fences. The interpretation of the bank has proved controversial. The excavator considered that the bank was a man-made structure, but Robinson and Lambrick subsequently argued that the bank was a naturally-occurring deposit of clay alluvium (Durham 1984a, 79–80). Whatever its origins, the bank had clearly been artificially heightened, and thermoluminescence dating suggested that it could have been in use by *c* AD 800, although this is not necessarily supported by the radiocarbon dates (see Appendix 2, below). There was little other evidence for activity on the site before the mid 10th century, apart from a number of fences and stakes found in silt layers, which may have represented attempts to consolidate the bank. In the mid 10th century, a make-up layer of clean sand and gravel was spread across the silt, overlain by an unweathered detrital floor, probably representing the first identifiable building on the site. Domestic occupation continued through the later 10th century and 11th century, and a new layout was established, with a much larger building, during the first half of the 12th century. Subsequently, the property was divided into two tenements, and the latest medieval layers (late 14th and 15th centuries) contained bone pegs and working waste which suggest that the site was in use as a musical instrument workshop.

Report: Durham 1977; see also this volume Chapter 3

**95 St Aldate's 83 1970–71**
SP 51385 05837
M Robinson with OUAS
Archive OxMus 1975.29; Oxon SMR PRN 6320 (post-med)

Trenching at the back of the building showed that marshy land had been reclaimed from the late 12th century and the site was subsequently occupied by a succession of yards or gardens, alternating with rear buildings of the tenement.
Report: Robinson 1977

**96 St Aldate's 89–91 1982–5**
SP 51365 05910
B Durham, G Waite (Tr VI), M Collard (Tr VII) for OAU
Archive OxMus 1986.115 (1982) and 1986.116 (1985); Oxon SMR PRN 6636, (6675)

Excavations took place in advance of redevelopment for a new quadrangle for Christ Church. Four trenches were excavated (I, II, VI and VII), and a watching brief was carried out on the conversion of the N building (Trench III) and sewerage works (Trenches IV and V). Trenches I, II and III revealed evidence of the development of the channel known since the medieval period as the Trill Mill Stream. It probably originated as a late Devensian channel around the foot of the Second Gravel Terrace; during the early and mid Holocene the channel may have been dry, at least in the summer, but a general rise in water level in the late Bronze Age seems to have flooded the area again, with reedswamp peat forming in the shallow water. The later Iron Age and Roman period saw the deposition of alluvial clay and the growth of alluvial islands which began to define the channel as an area of permanent water. During the mid Saxon period, wattle-lined gullies were dug along the N bank of the channel, and these contained flax-retting remains. A revetted gravel bank was constructed in the 10th century, and the land was reclaimed by dumping during the 11th century. Occupation of the site seems to have begun in the late 12th century, when a stone-walled building was constructed. Trench VII was dug from inside the NE corner of the 17th-century building at 89 St Aldate's. Augering from the lowest levels suggested that silt layers of the Trill Mill stream extended down to a level of *c* 52.55 m OD. The earliest feature on the site was a gravel spread edged by large flat stones, which may have represented reclamation or the creation of a bank. During the 10th century a wooden building was constructed on the site, but the site appeared to have been abandoned during the late 11th and 12th centuries, with a build-up of dark grey silts. This was overlain by floor levels associated with pottery of the late 12th and early 13th centuries; occupation of the site was continuous thereafter and successive layers of medieval and post-medieval building were recorded. The 17th-century and later listed building on the site was recorded prior to demolition.
Report: this volume Chapter 3

**97 St Aldate's opp No. 97 1980**
SP 51400 06040
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 6630
A scatter of non-calcareous pebbles was observed at a depth of 1.8 m.
See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**98 St Aldate's former site of Linacre College 1971**
SP 51435 05830
B Durham for OAEC
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 6223

A trench in the former college garden showed a layer of blue-grey clay overlying the primary alluvial surface; this was interpreted as the E edge of the clay bank seen on the opposite side of the road at 79–80 St Aldate's (Gaz No. 94). The earliest datable occupation evidence was from the 12th century, and it was suggested that the trench lay within the back yard area of a building established further E, closer to the road line.
Report: Durham 1977, 102, 107, fig. 10

**99 St Aldate's British Telecom Tunnel 1991**
SP 51430 05645
G E Campbell for OAU
Archive OxMus 1991.38; Oxon SMR PRN 6803

A detailed watching brief was carried out during tunnelling at the junction of St Aldate's and Thames St. An early channel of the Thames was identified, its fill giving a Mesolithic radiocarbon date. A stony layer, probably a ford, overlay the channel fill, and may date from the Neolithic or Bronze Age. Alluviation seems to have formed an island in the channel, whose surface was seen in Tunnel 1. A second cobbled surface was formed on this surface, and was overlain by alluvium which contained a plank from a tree felled AD 577–619. Two rows of timbers were recorded; a row of stakes was probably revetting the S edge of a channel, while a row of substantial timbers, radiocarbon dated to the mid Saxon period, may represent the substructure for a timber bridge. Subsequently a ragstone structure was seen, probably part of the Norman stone bridge/causeway (Grandpont), for which there was also evidence of reconstruction in the late 12th and early 13th century. Following this reconstruction, highly organic layers formed W of the causeway, containing clear indications of human settlement. The sequence became less clear in the later medieval period, although dumping and pit-digging were observed, as well as continuing alluviation.
Report: this volume Chapter 3

**100 St Aldate's 30–31 land adjoining the Police Station 1987**
SP 51460 05715
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus. 1987.230; Oxon SMR PRN 6721 (Med)

Excavations were undertaken in advance of the redevelopment of the site, concentrating on the backyard deposits of documented medieval tenements on the site. A watching brief was undertaken on the deepest service connection. The earliest excavated layers were deposits of silt containing early to mid 11th-century pottery. Fragmentary remains of wattle and timber structures were found within the silts, and may represent an episode of reclamation. During the 12th and 13th centuries the area seems to have been reclaimed by dumping, and substantial quantities of pottery and animal bone occurred in mid to late 13th-century contexts, perhaps suggesting that it was the site of a midden. The fragmentary remains of a later medieval building were noted, and a patch of knucklebone floor was excavated, which may have belonged to an outbuilding of the early 17th-century house which stood on the site until recent times.
Report: this volume Chapter 3

**101 St Aldate's 24–26 Police Station 1987–88**
SP 51480 05760
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus 1988.66; Oxon SMR PRN 6804

Excavations were undertaken in advance of extensions to the Police Station, the main results coming from Trench III. A low river bank was identified, which had been formed by silting. The bank appeared to have been established by the 10th century AD, and the hoofprints of cattle were found in an early surface layer. The bank was revetted with a row of vertical wooden stakes and planks, curving gently from SW to NE. Subsequently layers of silts spread across the entire trench, with no further activity apparent until the late 12th century. During the later medieval period the site showed evidence of loam dumping, with a few associated features that did not form any coherent structures.
Report: this volume Chapter 3

**102 St Aldate's opp Tom Quad 1980**
SP 51400 05995
B Durham for OAU
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 6631

Gravel was recorded at a depth of 1.15 m, with no primary metalling. A later surface of limestone setts was observed at 0.5 m depth.
See this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

*For No. 42 St Aldate's (Head of the River) see No. 51, above*

**103 St Ebbe's former Princes St, Town Wall section 1969**
SP 51063 06027
T G Hassall
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN

A section of town wall revealed two distinct phases of construction beneath the post-medieval wall which preserved the line of its medieval predecessor. The first phase survived as a footing only, while the second phase comprised footing and the lower courses of the wall. There was no satisfactory dating though the upper phases are likely to date to the main period of wall building in the 13th century.
Report: Hassall 1970

**104 St Ebbe's St 28–31 1972**
SP 51199 06053
J Haslam and H Woods for OAEC
Oxon SMR PRN 3527

Observations and salvage work carried out during the construction of the Fenwick store showed that extensive cellars had destroyed most medieval features. One stone-lined pit of indeterminate date was recorded.
Report: Hassall *et al.* 1989 113

**105 St Michael's St Bastion 3**
SP 51195 06344

Clark's edition of Anthony Wood's *City* (235, n 4) notes that the foundations of this tower were dug up in 1870, and its site included in the United Methodist Free Church in New Inn Hall St (now St Michael's St). The site is now the Northgate Hall.

**106 St Michael's St 24A 1985**
SP 51170 06330
P McKeague for OAU
Archive OxMus 1985.88; Oxon SMR PRN 6676

Excavations and a watching brief were carried out in advance of redevelopment of the site; the main results came from Trench II. Layers of plough soil which preserved traces of ploughing overlay a Bronze Age ring ditch. After a fallow period, a bank was constructed on the site surviving to a maximum height of 1.6 m and width of at least 7.65 m; the bank was retained by timber uprights and is almost certainly the late Saxon rampart. It was subsequently strengthened by the addition of a stone wall immediately in front of the timberwork, dated to the late Saxon period. A subsequent rebuild of the wall was seen, which probably dates to the 13th century, although this is not certain. Post-medieval infilling of the area around the wall was represented by stone-lined pits with 18th-century fills.
Report: this volume Chapter 4

**107 St Michael's St opp No. 25 1976**
SP 51170 06320
B Durham for OAEC
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 6477

Observations during sewerage work revealed a primary street surface of small rounded pebbles on natural gravel, at a depth of 2.3 m. This was overlain by red-brown stony clay/loam, 0.12 m deep, which formed the make-up for another surface of larger limestone pieces, measuring *c* 0.1 × 0.15 × 0.6 m. The stones were blackened by a wet organic silt layer, 0.3 m deep, which overlay them; it contained wood and leather fragments, and a single sherd of Stamford-type pottery (mid 11th to 12th century). The two layers above this were a 0.4 m-deep red-brown gravelly clay, presumably further make-up, and a deposit of grey, stony loam, which may have included disturbed road surfaces. The latter context contained two sherds of 15th-century pottery.

Report: this volume Chapter 4; see also this volume Chapter 5, early street surfaces

**108 Ship St 1–2**
SP 51320 06375
B Durham for OAU
Oxon SMR PRN 3442

Finds from a possible pit or infilled cellar of the 12th century or earlier were noted during the excavation of a new sewage manhole.

**109 Speedwell St sewer realignment 1970–71**
SP 51400 05805
T G Hassall and H Richmond for OAEC
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 6222

The main and bypass trenches for the sewer realignment were observed and recorded. The blue-grey clay bank identified at 79–80 St Aldate's (Gaz No. 94) was again present, and appeared to extend across St Aldate's as far as the trench was taken. A sequence of medieval floor layers and silt layers was recorded, with a wattle fence in the lowest layer of organic silt; the sequence was considered to be generally similar to that at the W end of the 79–80 St Aldate's site.

Report: Durham 1977, 107

**110 Trinity College 1964–5**
SP 51455 06514
Helen Sutermeister for OAEC
Finds OxMus

In excavating the basement for the Blackwell's bookshop, beneath the new Trinity College Quadrangle, medieval and later rubbish pits were planned and a series of stratified groups were recovered dating from the 12th to the 19th century.

Report: *Oxoniensia* **29/30**, 1964/5, 192

**111 Turl St 1889**
SP 51415 06405
H Hurst
Archive: Bodl MS Top. Oxon

A section of the ditch was encountered in digging the main drainage in 1880, when a 9 ft thick section of wall was found on gravel which then sloped into the ditch where there was 'a black accumulation of mud at the bottom' (Parker 1885, 237n). H Hurst made observations of this or later works and recorded preserved organic finds.

Report: Hurst 1899, 125

**112 Turl St 21 1913**
SP 51422 06422
P Manning
Archive Bodl MS Top. Oxon. a.24, f.24–5; Oxon SMR PRN 6231

During the rebuilding of the house, a small section was recorded which appears to show an earthen rampart.

**113 Turl St junction with High St 1980**
SP 51465 06220
B Durham for OAU
Oxon SMR PRN 6115 (All Saints); 6312 (post-med); 6538 (Turl Street); 6516

Construction of a new surface water manhole at the junction of Turl St and the High St showed a stone undercroft with internal plaster extending under Turl St from the All Saints Church side. It had apparently been relined or infilled with rubble stonework which the excavator suggested was the base of the medieval tower of All Saints. No primary street metalling was seen to the W of the undercroft; only a grey silty layer on the original surface at a depth of 2 m. This may be related to a westwards shift in the line of Turl St, after encroachment by All Saints Church.

See this volume Chapter 5

**114 Turl St tunnelled sewerage 1981**
SP 51470 06250
B Durham for OAU
Oxon SMR PRN 6538

Salvage observations were carried out during contractors' work, and a number of sections were recorded. The observations appeared to confirm that Turl St had originally been laid out on a different line, and had been realigned westwards after encroachment by All Saints Church.

Report: this volume Chapter 5

**115 Westgate 1970–72**
Grid square SP 511 060; various locations
J Haslam, K Sheridan and T Ward for OAEC
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 6215 (street surface); 6695 (ditch)

Watching briefs were carried out during the redevelopment of the site for the Westgate Centre. The Westgate site had a narrow frontage onto what is now Bonn Square, and was bounded to the W by the realigned Castle St, to the E by the Selfridges site (Gaz No. 15), and to the S by Old Greyfriars St. Owing to the method of excavation, detailed recovery of features was limited to the E end of the site; numerous pits were recorded dating from the 11th to the 15th century, and ovens from the 12th and 13th centuries. A possible property boundary of the 13th century was also noted. To the W of the site, the plan of the castle barbican ditch was exposed during the contractors' excavation. Possible street surfaces were recorded immediately N of the projected line of the town wall, on the site of the Greyfriars (Gaz No. 34), although the feature was given a Westgate context number (W F95). The primary surface consisted of an uneven layer of very coarse gravel, 0.04–0.08 m thick, lying immediately over natural gravel. The area uncovered measured 1 m E-W and 3 m N-S. The gravel was overlain by 0.25 m of silt, which was itself overlain by a second possible surface. Three sherds of pottery indicated a 12th- to 13th-century date.

Report Hassall *et al.* 1989, 111–125, figs 17 and 18

**116 Whitehouse Road, former Oxford City Football Ground 1992**
SP 513 053 (shown on Fig. 2.1)
A Mudd for OAU
Archive OxMus; Oxon SMR PRN 6600

Excavations in advance of housing development located part of a middle Iron Age rural settlement of the 3rd to 1st centuries BC on a low gravel island within the floodplain of the Thames, south of the medieval town. The excavated features comprised a subcircular penannular enclosure of several phases, with a cluster of ancillary enclosures and structures. The enclosures appear to have contained a series of roundhouses. The botanical and faunal evidence suggested that the site was a mixed subsistence farming settlement, although why it should have been located on marginal land in the floodplain rather than on the higher gravel terraces was unclear, and the excavator suggested that social or political factors may have been involved. There were also traces of 12th- to 14th-century medieval settlement, which the excavator speculated may have been ribbon development along the route of the Grandpont causeway. The site was abandoned by the 15th century.

Report: Mudd 1993

**117 High St 9–15 1972**
SP 51420 06220
OAEC

Late Saxon material was found when the former premises of Webbers were converted into separate shop units fronting the Covered Market. The work involved the laying of new drains and reflooring of the basement of No. 13. Original topsoil was observed in the drains at a depth of 2.53 m below modern pavement level. Beneath the basement floor at No. 13, seven pits were recorded cut into the underlying gravel. Five of these were of late Saxon date, containing a small assemblage of pottery including St Neot's-type ware, gritty coarse wares and sandy wares. A further pit contained medieval pottery, while the last was 19th-century. Other finds comprised a small assemblage of animal bone, a fragment of burnt daub, and the highly polished end of a bone pin beater.

Report: Hassall 1973, 276–280, figs 4 and 5

**118 High St 113–119 1993–5**
SP 5150 0620
R King and G Walker for Cotswold Archaeological Trust
Archive AM 1995.46; Oxon SMR PRN 15943

Excavations and a watching brief were carried out within a block of street frontage properties during the creation of basements, and revealed important evidence for the development of land plots within the town during the late Saxon period. The main phase of construction and use of the late Saxon buildings is dated to the early to mid 11th century, although an origin in the 10th century remains possible. There was clear evidence for some form of activity on the site prior to the main 10th- to 11th-century construction phase, but this could not be dated; both Bronze Age and Roman finds were present on the site in very small quantities. A small cellar pit, probably contained within a larger building, had been constructed at the frontage of No. 117 High Street, in a configuration very reminiscent of the pattern seen at the Clarendon Hotel site (Gaz No. 33). Behind this was very rare evidence for a ground-level building, which is thought to have succeeded the street-frontage cellared structure. The rear part only survived, and comprised the beamslot of the rear wall, and a sequence of floor surfaces; the building had been rebuilt or repaired within a fairly short period of time, and in its second phase had an internal partition wall. To the rear of the building was a stone flagged threshold leading to a gravelled yard. A cellar pit had been constructed within the yard; although this could not be completely excavated, it contained clear evidence of a lining comprising a double skin of planks or wattles mounted on closely spaced stakes. To the east, at the rear of No. 116, excavations identified at least one cellar pit; it appeared to have been a split-level construction, and a sequence of floor surfaces were identified. To the rear was another cellar pit-like structure which may well have acted as an access to the cellar pit in front. At the rear of No. 115 was a very large cellar pit, measuring at least 9 × 7m, aligned at right-angles to the High Street. In its first phase the cellar walls were retained by posts backed

by planks or wattle panels (and possibly also similarly faced); initially the cellar was unfloored, but subsequently a sequence of floors of gravel and clay were laid. Substantial repairs were carried out, comprising the removal of the original lining, and its replacement by a lining using timbers set into wooden ground beams. All the cellared structures appear to have fallen into disuse by the mid 11th century; subsequently the area was used for pit digging and the disposal of rubbish, including cess. Towards the street frontage, a well was sunk through the remains of the ground-level building; this development is also very reminiscent of the Clarendon Hotel site (Gaz No. 33). The area seems to have remained undeveloped until the appearance of the first stone walls in the 13th century.

Report: Walker and King 2000

**119 The Queen's College, Provost's Garden 1998**
SP 5174 0636; various locations
Sean Cook for OAU
Archive OAU; Oxon SMR PRN 3478

Four evaluation trenches were excavated within the Provost's Garden, one of which contained a gravel surface and an associated pit that contained metalworking slag; a large posthole was also revealed nearby. The remains were provisionally dated to the 10th century. Elsewhere, other features dated to the late 11th, early 13th and late 14th centuries, or later.

Report: *South Midlands Archaeology*, 29 (1999), 83

**120 Christ Church Cathedral Graveyard 1998**
SP 51574 05970
Angela Boyle and Sean Cook for OAU
Archive OxMus 1998.98

Three trenches were excavated within Christ Church Cathedral graveyard during the summer of 1998 in advance of a proposed extension. A total of 37 skeletons ranging in date from the 7th to the 11th century were excavated. The assemblage is interesting for the marked predominance of males in the group: only three females were identified. Three of the skeletons were radiocarbon dated, and the results are presented and discussed in Appendix 2 and Chapter 2 of this volume. The most notable result was the date obtained for skeleton 402 (NZA-12343), a female aged 40 or older, and dated to the period cal AD 620–690 at 95% confidence level. This is the first unequivocal evidence for a 7th-century burial at the site, and the earliest evidence to date for the possible mid Saxon minster of St Frideswide's. All burials were west-east aligned in sub-rectangular graves, supine, extended and unaccompanied with the exception of one who was wearing a copper alloy belt buckle. A number of graves had stone linings while one had possible 'ear-muffs' and there was evidence for ?wooden coffins in the form of iron nails and probable iron coffin fittings.

Report: Boyle 2001

**121 St Aldate's Church 1999**
SP 451350 206000
Ric Tyler for OAU
Archive OxMus 1999.108

A series of archaeological investigations were carried out at St. Aldate's Church, during the internal refurbishment of the church and the formation of foundations for a new entrance building. The investigations revealed valuable new evidence for Saxon occupation on the site in the form of a series of eight inhumation burials within charcoal-lined graves. Three of the burials were submitted for radiocarbon dating, and the results are presented and discussed in Appendix 2 and Chapter 2 of this volume. The results confirm that burial was taking place on the site during the 9th or 10th century, although no evidence of a church of this date was found. A small 'island' of probable Saxon occupation surface was exposed within the nave of the church while a fragment of 10th-century cross-shaft with carved 'knotwork' decoration was recovered from within the masonry of the south nave wall. Little evidence was retrieved for the layout of the early church. However, it has been established that the 14th-century crypt beneath the south aisle was not originally furnished with a third, western bay, the space having formerly been occupied by a lateral stairwell.

Report: Tyler 2001

**122 The Sackler Library 1998–9**
SP 5100 6550
Daniel Poore and David R P Wilkinson for OAU
Archive OxMus 1997.103; Oxon SMR PRN 3557

Excavations were carried out at the site of Oxford University's Sackler Library development, in advance of the library's construction. The site lies at the eastern limit of the former Beaumont Palace, constructed for Henry I outside the north wall of the medieval city, and in use as a royal residence from *c* 1132. The palace was the birthplace of Richard I (1157) and John (1167). The site was granted to the Carmelite Friars by Edward II in 1318, and occupied as a friary until its dissolution in 1538; most of the buildings were demolished soon after and nothing now remains above ground of the medieval structures on the site. The excavations revealed two probable Bronze Age barrow ditches, which add to the growing evidence for a Bronze Age barrow cemetery in north Oxford. Remains of the palace period comprised numerous pits aligned in rows, which are interpreted as tree-planting holes from a formal garden. The foundations of two buildings were revealed, both part of the friary complex, although one may have originated in the palace period. An interesting collection of finds included four redeposited sherds of Ipswich Ware, datable to the period 720–850; finds from the palace and friary periods included a notable collection of painted window glass, and writing instruments.

Report: Poore and Wilkinson 2001

**123 Lincoln College 1997–2000**
SP 51494 06345
B Ford, J Hiller, J Munby, R Tyler, D Poore and D R P Wilkinson for OAU
Archive OxMus 1997.35; Oxon SMR PRN 3523

A programme of archaeological investigations was carried out during the course of construction of new basements, the refurbishment of existing buildings, and the construction of new heating and service ducts. Excavations revealed undated (although almost certainly late Saxon) primary activity culminating in a fire; subsequently the site was occupied during the 11th century by at least two phases of timber buildings. During the earlier phase of buildings there is evidence for two post-built structures, succeeded in the second phase by a large building with walls of wattle and daub, that incorporated an internal partition and a cellar-pit. A coin of Edgar datable to the period 972/3–5 was recovered from a pit that seems to have been dug to bury rubbish after the destruction of one of the first phase buildings; however, according to current interpretations, the associated ceramic evidence is characteristically early 11th-century in date, and suggests that the coin had been redeposited with other debris. The cellared building was in use during the later 11th century, but numerous pits dug into its interior suggest that it may have fallen into disuse before its final destruction by fire; at least one of the pits cut through an alignment of postholes thought to represent an internal partition. Subsequently, the site remained undeveloped and appears to have been used for gravel extraction and the dumping of construction debris from building activity nearby, during the 12th century and after. The buildings of Lincoln College were constructed on the site between 1427 and 1437, and were investigated during the excavation and building recording works. The environmental remains from the late Saxon buildings represented a remarkably well-preserved assemblage, providing evidence for the cereal economy, diet and domestic activity; considerable evidence was also recovered for 11th-century consumption of birds and fish, including notable quantities of herring, as well as domestic fowl, goose and plover. Other evidence suggests that small-scale metalworking was taking place at the site during the late Saxon period.

Report: Kamash *et al.* 2002

**124 St Peter in the East 1968**
D Sturdy
A note on excavations in the church of St Peter in the East was published by Sturdy in 1972, and is reproduced in full below.

Excavations in 1968 prior to conversion into a library for St Edmund Hall found that an area on the south side of the nave had been preserved from disturbance in the 17th and 18th centuries by the University Pew. Finds included (a) Neolithic flints, (b) an occupation level, presumably of early 10th century date, (c) footings and plaster floor-levels of a timber and stone church of the late 10th century, (d) similar footings of a stone church of the 11th century, (e) the west wall, wall benches, and plaster floor-levels of the early 12th century church which largely survives; a late 12th or early 13th century stone coffin with a burial in an intact shroud, with an inserted second burial, and (f) floor-tiles and details of other medieval alterations.

Oxford Archaeology
Thames Valley Landscapes
Monograph 17

The name of the city of Oxford is virtually synonymous throughout the world with that of Oxford University. At the time of its emergence in the historical record, however, the university had taken root in what was already a thriving medieval town. This volume presents a comprehensive account of archaeological research into the origins and development of the town of Oxford from the Anglo-Saxon period until the end of the 12th century. It includes reports on some 18 previously unpublished archaeological sites, accompanied by chapters on their finds, animal bone and environmental assemblages. These are supported by a gazetteer of major sites, a review of the development of the river Thames at Oxford, and a synthesis and discussion of the archaeological evidence.

Cover: The Northgate of Oxford as it may have appeared shortly before the Norman Conquest. This reconstruction shows how St Michael's Tower could have functioned as part of the town defences and suggests that the two extant windows on the lower floors of the tower's north face might not have been original features. Other interpretations of this evidence are considered in the main body of the report. The tower on the opposite side of the road is based on evidence for tower foundations recovered in early 20th-century excavations. Reconstruction by Peter Lorimer.

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